FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

Vol. 14, No. 5 SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1968

At the place where it happened, two French children discuss their remarkable experience with investigator Claude Pavy. What was it they saw? See . . .

ENCOUNTER WITH DEVILS

in page 7

Also in this issue see details of the **CHASCOMUS TELEPORTATION** and the **GREAT NEW SOUTH AMERICAN WAVE.**

FIVE SHILLINGS

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FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

An international journal devoted to the study of Unidentified Flying Objects

Vol 14 No. 5 SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER

NO POLEMICS

AN American correspondent of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW mentioned in a recent letter that he had been told that members of a small group of scientists supposedly interested in the UFO problem, break into "fits of uncontrollable laughter" whenever they see a John Keel document.

We evinced only a passing interest in this disclosure because it was obvious that it was based on second-hand hearsay. And after all, we have seen many John Keel documents and have published several of them. Whenever scientist members of our team have seen these documents they have studied them with interest and, whatever their critical feelings about them, have never displayed any tendency to break into laughter.

Not unexpectedly there has been a deal of criticism of Mr. Keel's reports of the widespread investigations which he claims to have made, and his suggestions about the subject which stem from those investigations. We have published a few critical letters; one of these, carefully reasoned in courteous language, was from our friend Dr. Jacques Vallée, mathematician-astronomer and computer expert.

In mid-July we received yet another criticism of Mr. Keel, this time in the form of an article. The contents of this document reminded us of the tale of the "laughing scientists" for the alleged sender of the item is a technologist working closely with scientists.

Readers may wonder why we are being so careful about this; why we do not reveal the identity of the alleged sender; why indeed we refer to him as an "alleged" sender. The reason—unpleasant enough in itself—is that he was not courteous enough to sign his submission, or to accompany it with a covering letter, or note. We can only presume the piece was sent to us by the person whose name appears with the "return address" typed at the head of the article. We have good reason to believe, however, that the item came from the source from which it is purported to have come.

Editors walk a tightrope on occasions like this if they are tempted to publish. The normal, sensible thing to do is to consign trash of this nature to the wastepaper basket, for the article concerned is both vituperative and jejune in its language and content, and an affront to us in view of the high standards we strive to maintain. Furthermore, the pages of this REVIEW are not open to those who wish to engage in polemics or personal mud-slinging.

Nevertheless, shocked as we are that such a composition should be submitted by the alleged writer, we feel that some mention should be made of it, for it does illustrate a frame of mind all too common among people who should know better than to indulge in hasty, ill-conceived attacks on others.

Condensed into reasonable language the gist of the assault on Mr. Keel is as follows: that he is a sensation-monger; that he invents accounts of

incidents to suit his theories; that he believes any old fairy tale country folk care to tell him; that he should not talk disparagingly of "UFO buffs" for he himself is —by our correspondent's implication—a "UFO super-buff"; that our belligerent correspondent himself investigated *one* of the cases reported by Mr. Keel and found it to be due to lights reflected over a distant city; that Mr. Keel would suffer incontinence of the bladder if he met a person wearing a turtle-necked sweater, and so on *ad nauseam*.

We are well aware that Mr. Keel is a professional journalist, but we know also that he has devoted a lot of time to researching UFO reports, and that this time could have been spent more profitably on "bread and butter" work. We also think it possible that Mr. Keel might write a book based on his findings, but that is a "chancy" undertaking at the best of times. Despite all this there is one thing about Mr. Keel's work that does interest us, and that is that he does not shirk from giving the names and addresses of his witnesses (some are *not* published, by request of the witness) and of police officers involved in cases.

If chair-borne critics, writers, UFO-buffs or laughing scientists are urged to say Mr. Keel is wrong, then it is incumbent upon them to get out and about to thoroughly investigate his claims. If they do not do this they will find themselves on insecure ground.

Mr. Keel has made some remarkable claims; we would be the first to welcome corroboration—or otherwise—of these claims. We are not interested in polemics, but we do welcome scientific investigation.

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES HOLD A UFO SYMPOSIUM

The University of Arizona atmospheric physicist, **Dr. James E. McDonald,** has kindly sent us details of a UFO symposium held on July 29 in the Rayburn Building in Washington D.C., before the House of Representatives Committee on Science and Astronautics under the chairmanship of the **Hon. George P. Miller of California.**

Dr. McDonald points out that this meeting was not a full Congressional "Hearing" but, rather, a seminar or briefing session where scientists who have looked at the problem from one viewpoint or another endeavoured to lay their findings before that influential Committee.

Earlier in the year **Representative J. Edward Roush** had called for a Congressional Investigation on flying saucers, urging that it was time the problem was treated as a scientific one rather than a military one. Dr. McDonald found the "opening and closing" remarks by this same gentleman to be "quite positive in nature".

Dr. J. Allen Hynek, the Northwestern University astronomer and U.S. Air Force Scientific Consultant on UFOs opened the session with a 30-minute paper in which he made strong observations concerning the seriousness of the UFO problem. He called for a federally-sponsored UFO study programme with UNO co-operation in view of the many important foreign sightings.

Dr. McDonald followed, stressing the seriousness of the problem and emphasising his support for the extraterrestrial hypothesis. He also commented on the inadequacies of Dr. Menzel's "explanations" made in terms of meteorological optics, and the shortcomings of the Philip J. Klass theory regarding plasma-UFOs. At the request of **Representative Ryan** of New York, Dr. McDonald enlarged on the problems of "power system outages".

Other speakers were **Dr. Carl Sagan** of the Cornell University Department of Astronomy, who spoke of the growing likelihood of intelligent life elsewhere in the Galaxy, but who had yet to see persuasive evidence of the existence of UFOs; **Dr. Robert Hall** of the University of Illinois, who discussed the sociological and social psychological questions posed by UFOs, and who emphasised that there was no basis for regarding the UFO problem as a mere "hysterical contagion" phenomenon; **Dr. James Harder** of the University of California, who discussed the Red Bluff sightings of August 13, 1960; **Dr. R. N. L. Baker** of UCLA and Systems Corporation who spoke about radar surveillance systems and his ideas for a better objective-sensing net for UFOs.

YOU CAN HELP!

For the third time this year pressure of new "flap" news has resulted in a bumper edition of FSR with 36 pages instead of the customary 32 pages. Show these editions to prospective new readers: the more new readers, the bigger and better will FSR become. So . . .

PLEASE TELL YOUR FRIENDS ABOUT FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

Teleportation from Chascomús to Mexico

By Oscar A. Galíndez

Representative of *Flying Saucer Review* in Argentina

ONE of the most fantastic teleportation cases occurred in May of this year, and made the headlines of Argentina's leading daily papers.

FLYING SAUCER REVIEW has already carried material[1] on phenomena of this type, and this important new event makes it necessary for us to give fresh consideration to the problem of teleportation.

According to the documentation seen by us,[2] it seems that early in May 1968 a well-known Buenos Aires attorney named Dr. Gerardo Vidal went with his wife, Señora Raffo de Vidal, to a family reunion in the town of Chascomús, distant less than 120 km. southwards from the capital, Buenos Aires.

Leaving the party a little before midnight, they decided to drive on to Maipú, a town some 150 km. to the south of Chascomús, where they have relatives and friends.

They went by National Route No. 2, and ahead of them in another car went another married couple who also had relatives living in Maipú. This other couple, whose names are not known, arrived safely in Maipú without incident, but not so the Vidals, whose failure to arrive caused concern. The other couple therefore set out again by car along the highway back to Chascomús hoping to find them, but had no success, and returned again to Maipú having found no trace of either the car or its occupants.

Phone Call from Mexico City

Some 48 hours after the disappearance of the Vidals, in the residence of the Rapallini family (let us remember this name!) in Maipú, a telephone call was received from the Argentine Consulate in Mexico City—6,400 km. distant—and in this phone call Dr. Gerardo Vidal informed them that all was well and told them of the exact date of the proposed arrival of himself and his wife at the Ezeiza International Airport, Buenos Aires.

In due course the Vidals both arrived at Ezeiza as notified and were met there by their friends and relatives. Señora Vidal was taken straight from the Ezeiza Airport to a private clinic for treatment of a nervous disorder, and meanwhile Dr. Vidal told his amazed family of the astonishing thing that had befallen them both.

Dr. Vidal's Account

Dr. Vidal said that as they were leaving the suburbs of Chascomús on the night of their disappearance, a "dense fog" had suddenly appeared in front of them, and from that moment onwards they had been unable to account for 48 hours in their lives.

When they came to again, it was daytime, and the car, with them still inside it, was parked in an unknown lane. Both of them were unhurt, but both had a pain at the back of the neck and both had the sensation of having slept for many hours.

Astonished, they got out of the car, and found that its surface was burnt as though by a blow-torch. The engine however was in perfect running order.

Driving along the unknown road,

in unfamiliar scenery, they met people and enquired where they were, and always the answer was the same: *in Mexico*. . . .

Their watches had stopped, but with the aid of a calendar they established that they had been away from Argentina for 48 hours.

At the Argentine Consulate in Mexico City

In due course they arrived at the Argentine Consulate in Mexico City, where they made themselves known, and from there they put through the telephone call to the Rapallini family in Maipú in the Province of Buenos Aires.

The Argentine Consul, Señor Rafael López Pellegrini, asked them to preserve total silence about the case until the authorities had had time to make a thorough investigation.

Dr. Vidal's car, a Peugeot 403, was sent off to the United States for scientific study, and it was arranged that he would receive another car of the same make in replacement of it.

The Curtain of Silence

Highly significant is the fact that on this case, as upon so many others, the odious "curtain of silence" soon descended. And thus, two days later, the notary-public Martín Rapallini in Maipú was telling newspaper reporters that the alleged telephone call from Mexico City had never occurred and assuring them that he and his family had no knowledge whatsoever of the Vidals.

But he committed three glaring errors, because in fact the Rapallini family is *related to the Vidals*. First, his own sister, Señora Rapallini de Gellemur, who lives in General Pirán (another town in Buenos Aires Province, not far from Maipú) is related to Dr. Vidal's wife. Secondly, another sister of his, Aida Rapallini, residing in Maipú, had already told friends about the telephone call. And thirdly, Señorita María Eulalia Rapallini, an aunt of the notary, had already confirmed, before well-known witnesses, the story of the Vidals' teleportation to Mexico.

Finally, the newspapermen did not fail to notice another odd but significant point: almost all of the notary's relatives had suddenly slipped away from Maipú, evidently in order to avoid further questioning.

Further Significant Points

In conclusion, it is necessary to mention other points:

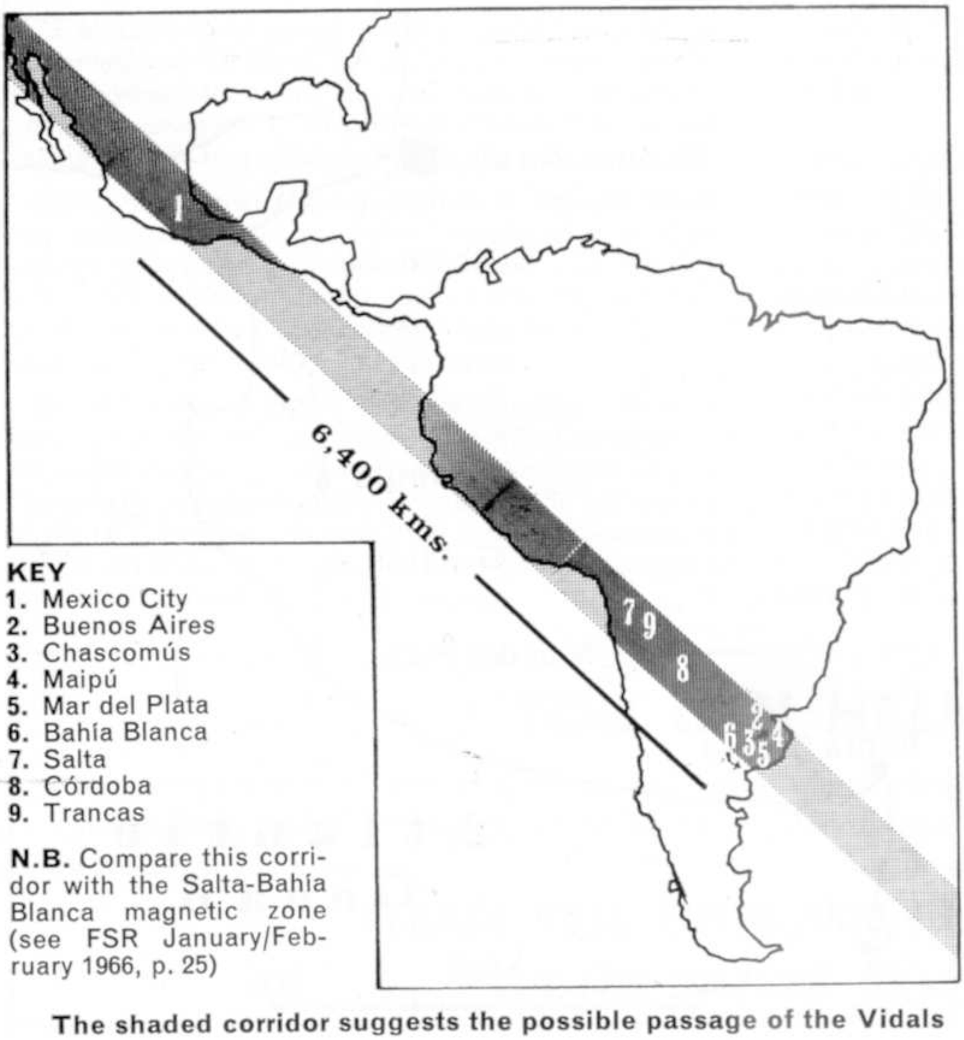
(a) On the very same night when the Vidals mysteriously vanished, a man was received into the Maipú Hospital for medical treatment. This man had said that as he was driving along on National Route No. 2, a strange fog appeared in front of him, but that it had shortly afterwards lifted and moved away, leaving him badly shaken and feeling unwell.

(b) The case of the Vidals presents many details that were reported in the account of the experience of Barney and Betty Hill[3] on September 19, 1961:

(1) Dr. Vidal said the surface of his car had strange marks as though it had been burnt by a blow-torch. The Hills also noted mysterious shiny circles on the boot of their car.

(2) The Vidals' watches had stopped. This also happened with the Hills.

(3) The Vidals knew nothing of what had happened to them during their lost 48 hours. We suggest that, under psychotherapy and time-regression hypnosis, it would be possible to learn what it is that their minds have repressed, just as was done in the case of Betty and Barney Hill. Under such test-conditions, the evidence secured from the Vidals could yield us proof of one of the most important and staggering episodes ever recorded.



The shaded corridor suggests the possible passage of the Vidals

NOTES

[1] See *Teleportations*, by Gordon Creighton, in FSR, March/April 1965.

[2] Our sources are press reports and personal communications. The Argentine newspapers from which we have taken the story are *La Razón* (Buenos Aires), for June 3, 4 and 5, 1968, and *Córdoba* (published in Córdoba), of June 4 and 5, 1968.

[3] *The Interrupted Journey*, by John G. Fuller, Dial Press, New York City, 1966.

HUMANOIDS SEEN AT BUTLER

An unusual report from Pennsylvania

By Robert A. Schmidt

Our contributor is Secretary of the Pittsburgh UFO Research Institute

LATE in the evening of March 20, 1967, about 10.45 Eastern Standard Time, Mr. Rible* and his daughter, Jean, of Butler, Pennsylvania, took out the family car for a trip around the neighbourhood in the hope of glimpsing some unusual lights. They had been seen earlier by Mrs. Rible who described them as "flitting around at low altitude".

The Rible home is in a sparsely populated area of scattered houses and farms. It is also a mile from a private airfield used by Cessnas and other light aircraft. The Rible family is familiar with night flying, and the lights seen by Mrs. Rible did not in any way conform to those seen at night on aircraft in the vicinity. It was the curious behaviour of the unusual manoeuvring lights that persuaded Mr. Rible and Jean to take the car and investigate them.

They saw nothing at first as they drove around the back roads of the Butler area, and decided to pull off the road, switch off the lights of their Volkswagen, and await events.

Globes of Light

They had only been parked for a few minutes when Mr. Rible, who had stepped out of the car for a better view, spotted two globes of light about a mile down the road and about 200ft. up. The secondary road on which they were parked is a straight stretch, sloping downwards for at least a mile from their observation post. They had a clear view of the lights which, when first observed, looked slightly smaller than the full moon appears to the naked eye ($\frac{1}{2}°$).

The objects travelled towards the Ribles, flying parallel to each other, and a little way apart. When about half a mile away, they changed places, but maintained the same parallel course, the same distance apart. But they now looked considerably larger, and although they shone yellow-white, they did not light up the area over which they travelled.

Both Mr. Rible and his daughter first thought they were observing two private aircraft, each with a landing light, coming to touch down on the highway where the car was parked; but there were several factors against this. There was no noise; private aircraft carry much smaller lights; and tight formation flying on a pitch-black night in March, culminating in a landing on an unlit narrow highway, was unlikely to be done, even by an experienced stuntsman.

The Ribles watched with increasing concern as the two globes of light appeared to land on the road a quarter of a mile away from them, at the foot of the gradient. They came up the slope at an estimated 70-80 m.p.h., looking like the lights of two motor-cycles racing along, ten feet apart. While Mr. Rible stood paralysed with fright next to the Volkswagen, Jean yelled to her father: "Oh my God! They're coming right at the car!"

Collision Course

Mr. Rible reached in through the car window and flicked on the headlights. The strange lights continued to approach on a collision course with the car—and then, fifty yards away from it, they vanished into thin air.

The Ribles, crouching, tensed and bracing themselves for what they believed to be the inevitable impact, saw to their astonishment, a few yards away from the bonnet of their Volkswagen, a group of five figures, standing somewhat irregularly in a semi-circle. This was an additional shock which prompted them to swift action.

The entities

Within a few seconds the Ribles were back in their car. While her father was busy starting the car and reversing, Jean got a good look at the humanoids. She told me . . .

"They just stood there, about 10ft. from the car. They looked like human beings, but their faces were totally devoid of expression, and unlike a human face. Their eyes, if you could call them such, were horizontal slits about this long (she extended her forefinger and thumb to indicate the length of the slits). I could not see any irises or pupils—just slits. Their noses were narrow and pointed, not unlike a human nose, and their mouths were slits like the eyes.

"Four of the figures were about 5ft. 7in. tall, and the fifth was considerably shorter—about 5ft. All wore caps with a flat top, not unlike baseball caps, beneath which blond hair was showing. The hair of the four taller figures was ear-length. The shorter humanoid had hair falling to the shoulders—I thought it might have been a woman. I didn't get a good look at the ears.

"All five were dressed alike, somewhat sloppily, in grey-green shirts and trousers, not unlike a hunter's outfit. The shirts, which were open at the neck, were worn outside the trousers. Everything was loose-fitting.

"The skin on their faces and hands was rough-looking—it resembled scar tissue or skin which has been severely burned.

"It gave us the creeps, seeing them just stand there

* This is not the correct name of the witness; we have this on file, but have been asked not to use it.

doing nothing. We heard no noise in connection with either the lights or the figures. Father nearly broke the door handle trying to get back into the car. When we had started the engine, we had to reverse and then go forward and round the figures, to miss them. We had been parked on the hard shoulder of the road, and if we had gone straight ahead, we would have run them down as they were standing right in front of the car.

"To this day the details of this encounter are clear in my mind. It was the most unforgettable experience of my life, and of my father's too."

Investigation

Mr. Rible told investigators that he was so intent on getting away, he had to rely on the description given by his daughter of what she observed from the passenger seat in the car. He had, however, a quick glimpse of the figures, and agreed to their numbers and height.

The Ribles at first discussed their experience only with close family friends. They were afraid that ridicule would have serious repercussions on Mr. Rible's job, which is an important one in the Butler area, and that any mention of his name in association with such a bizarre incident might have ruined him. Jean is an honours student at the local high school.

In late October, 1967, Pittsburgh UFO Research Institute made a complete investigation into the sighting. By this time the Ribles had heard of the serious studies made by the Institute's members, most of whom are scientists with degrees in their respective fields, and decided to pass on the information to them.

The investigators found the Ribles to be capable people, well-known and liked by their friends and neighbours. After cross-checking all points of the case, tape recording their conversations, the Institute found no reason to disbelieve the claims made by the family.

Under pressure of questioning, Jean mentioned another point which she had at first deliberately refrained from mentioning. Asked if there was anything else of interest relevant to the sighting, no matter how absurd it might sound, she confessed to a curious experience which may be of considerable importance.

"As the lights swiftly approached the car, coming down the road, I heard a chorus of voices in my head—not with my ears, but I seemed to sense them in my brain. The voices said: 'Don't move . . . don't move . . . don't move . . .' They kept repeating 'Don't move . . .' but they dragged it out—'Doooooonnnnnn'ttttt Moooovvvveeee.' When the lights vanished, the voices stopped at once. My father didn't hear a thing and so I thought I was hearing things—but now I'm not too sure. I just had to tell you about it."

The investigators learned that Jean, near hysteria, was driven immediately after the sighting to the Minister of their local church and comforted; her father went too. Both of them had thought that the devil himself had been at work. The Minister (who asked for his name to be withheld) confirmed the testimony. Mr. Rible returned to the scene of the sighting a while later to see if there was any trace of the strange encounter, but nothing was found.

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ENCOUNTER WITH "DEVILS"

A strange account from the Cussac Plateau in France

By Joël Mesnard and Claude Pavy

Translated from *Phénomènes Spatiaux* **for June, 1968, by John C. Hugill***

ON the Contal plateau in a setting of pastures divided by little stone walls and curtains of trees, a tiny village stands on a hill—Cussac, 20 km. east-south-east of St.-Flour. It is 10.30 a.m. on August 29, 1967. In a meadow beside Route D.57 ten or so cows are grazing in the care of François Delpeuch ($13\frac{1}{2}$) and his sister Anne-Marie (9) accompanied by their little dog Médor. The weather is fine, the sky is clear, and a light wind is blowing from the west.

As the cows make a move to cross the low wall, François gets up to bring them back, turns round and sees, on the other side of the road, what he takes at first to be four children. They are behind a hedge 40 metres or so away. He climbs on top of a few stones the better to see these children whom he does not recognise. François and Anne-Marie make out, near the strangers, a large sphere half hidden by the hedge. It is very brilliant and shines so much it is painful to look at.

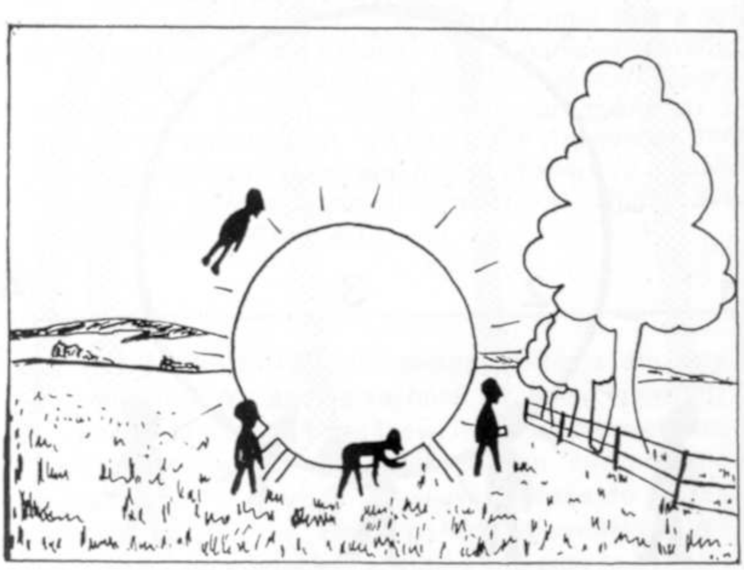
One of the little beings is bending over and seems to be busy with the soil, while another, holding in one hand an object which reflects the sun (which François likened to a mirror), is waving his hands, apparently making signs to his companions.

François then called out, "Have you come to play with us?" At this moment the small beings, who did not seem to be interested in the children, became aware that they were under observation. The first one (see sketch) took off vertically and then plunged head first through the top of the sphere. The second followed in the same way, and the third, after getting up, did likewise. The fourth also got up, but before diving into the machine, came down again and seemed to pick up something from the ground (his mirror, François thinks). Then he took off again and caught up with the sphere which during this time had begun to rise in a small spiral, and was already 15 or so metres up in the air. He then disappeared inside like the rest. When climbing, the sphere made a soft, fairly piercing whistling noise, mingled with the sound of a breeze which neither of the children felt.

The sphere then made several more circles, climbing all the while, and in doing so the intensity of the light given off by it increased considerably. Then the sound stopped and the sphere flew off at full speed to the north-west. At the same time, a smell of sulphur began to spread, reaching the children. The cows started lowing and gathered near to those of François and Anne-Marie. The dog Médor barked at the object and wanted to follow it. The children did not see the object disappear, as they had to look after the cows, which were very upset, and which they drove home half an hour earlier than usual.

Details of the object are scanty. It was a perfect sphere, about 2 metres in diameter, of a very brilliant luminous silver colour, and dazzling. François, who wears spectacles and so must have sensitive eyes, experienced running eyes for a quarter of an hour after seeing the object, and every morning on waking for several days afterwards. His sister, who does not wear glasses, felt nothing.

No details were noticed on the sphere itself; it was perfectly smooth, without marking or visible opening. The little beings seemed to pass through the wall of the sphere. The only detail noticed, and one of the points of difference in the children's stories, was by Anne-Marie. She says she saw beneath the machine a landing gear consisting of three or four straight legs, equipped with round "shoes" 10 cm. in diameter. They were no longer visible beneath the machine in flight. Anne-Marie did not see them retract into the machine. One minute they were there, the moment after, they were there no longer. It may be thought that, as the machine rose and the intensity of the light increased to a point where it was unbearable, the visible details of the object would have been swamped by this dazzling light, which would explain why François, with his sensitive eyes, could not see the legs at the point of take-off, since at



Artist's impression of the "Devils" as seen on the far side of Route D.57 by the Delpeuch children.

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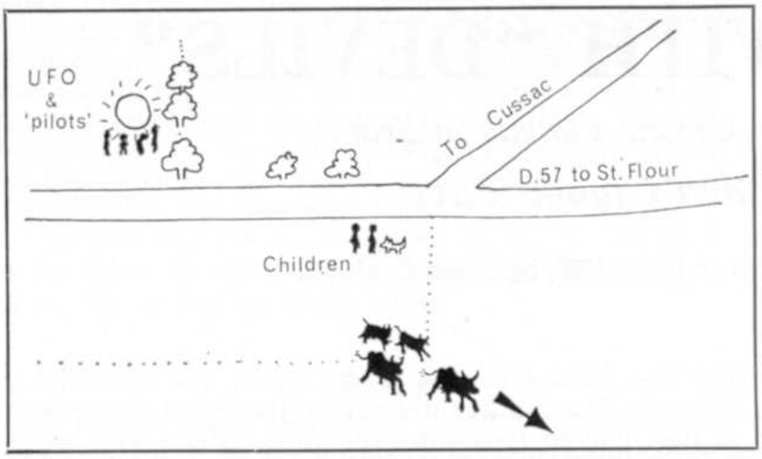
* For address of *Phénomènes Spatiaux* see page ii of cover under *Broaden Your Outlook*. . . .

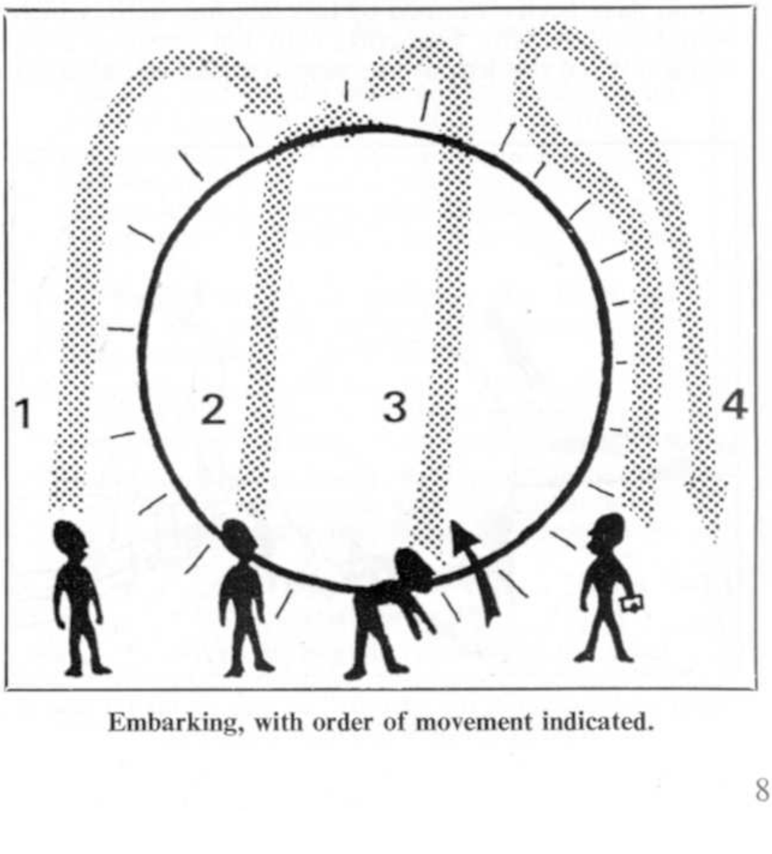


Sketch map of the incident.

that instance the machine was very luminous.

The smell of sulphur spread as the machine began to climb in a spiral or, more precisely, helical course. The light west wind was blowing from the object towards the children. The cows started to low as soon as the machine moved off. It may be noted that in sufficient concentration, ozone has a smell which could be confused with that of sulphur (i.e. of sulphurous gas) and that a smell of ozone has already been noticed in a number of UFO landings.

Details of the small beings are more numerous and interesting. They were 1-1·20 metres tall, not all of the same height. Nos. 1 and 2 (see sketch) were the smallest, and the tallest was No. 4, the one with a "mirror" in his hand. They were "completely black", but with a shiny look which François compared to that of silk. The children could not be certain whether the colour was that of the beings' skin, or of some sort of protective suit, for there was no visible dividing line between any possible clothing and the heads of the beings, which were bare. If there was a protective suit of some kind, it was perfectly fitted.



Embarking, with order of movement indicated.

The limb proportions were not completely in accordance with the norms of our species. The arms were somewhat too long and thin (see sketches). The children could not distinguish anything which might serve as hands. The legs were short and thin. Unlike the hands, the children were able to observe No. 4's feet and described them as "webbed" (see sketch). Perhaps this appearance may have been due to foot covering of some sort. The head seemed of normal proportions relative to the body, but the cranium was pointed and the chin equally was very much accentuated. The nose also was pointed, and here was a second point of difference in their stories. Only Anne-Marie saw this nose when No. 4 took off to overtake the sphere and showed himself in profile. It may be thought that this was a fairly fleeting glimpse, and that for this reason François did not notice it. The last and very interesting point is the beards which the children said were worn by these beings. They were on either side of the head, and there was also a little tuft under the chin. The children were unable to distinguish either eyes or ears.

Although they did not appear to wear any apparatus on their backs, the beings flew with great ease and speed. It may be thought that they are equipped with apparatus similar to that suggested by M. Jean Goupil in his article on repelling force fields (*Phénomènes Spatiaux* No. 11, p. 22), miniaturised, or that the phenomena were produced by the luminous objects on a given signal, or by the action of a fifth member inside the machine.

We arrived to make enquiries without giving advance notice to anyone at all. Thus the children were not expecting us, and it is out of the question that they could have rehearsed their story. We went first to the police station where we were courteously received, and given confirmation of the basic facts we had—i.e. what we had learned from Radio Luxembourg (who very obligingly sent us a recording of a conversation between one of their reporters and the children's father on the day following the event) and from an article published in *Paris-Jour* of September 2 and 3, 1967. In confirming the basic outlines of the sighting, the police told us definitely that investigators on the spot at 4 p.m. on the same day had confirmed the existence of a sulphurous smell. Further, the police and their investigators had from the outset treated the matter seriously.

We then went to Cussac where we found little Anne-Marie with her mother and her younger brother, André, and were very well received. We questioned Anne-Marie for nearly an hour. There were two of us and we asked questions in turn, in a continuous stream, reverting from time to time to the same questions but differently formulated, in an effort to try to make the child contradict herself. She is a timid little girl, but she never once did so. After this interrogation she took us off to find her brother François who was working in the fields with his other brother Raymond. We walked back with François to his parents' home, interrogating him as we had done his sister. He too never contradicted

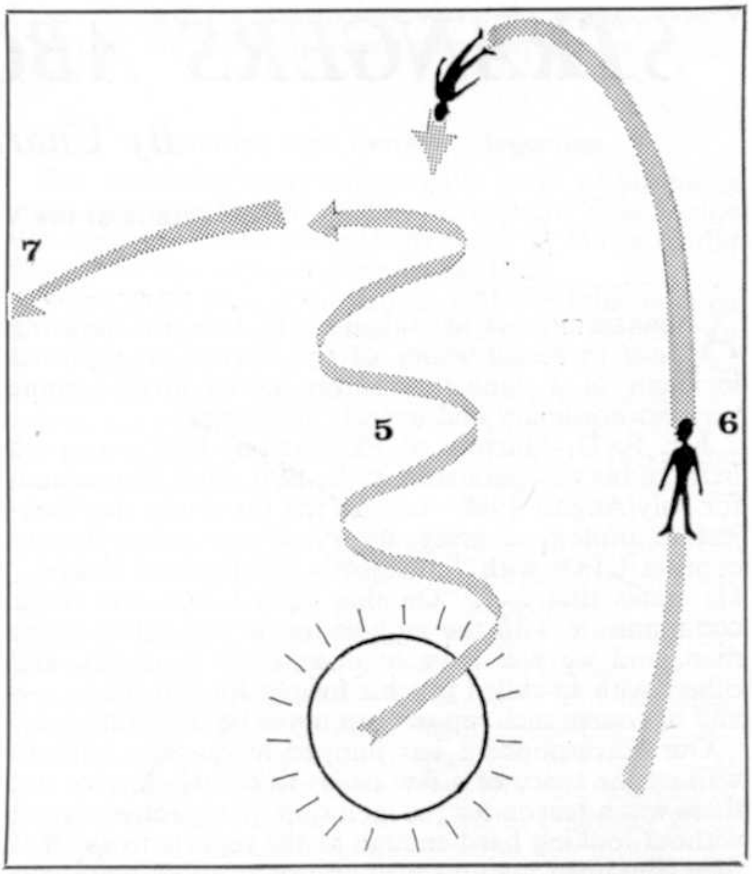
himself. Again, when questioning them together, both at home and at the scene of the incident, and asking them ever more specific questions, we never saw any conniving looks pass between them. They never seemed embarrassed by our questions; either they had seen the detail asked for, or they had not. For example, François told us: "From the first day, Anne-Marie has said she saw legs beneath the object, but I didn't see any, so I can't tell you anything!" On this point, incidentally, he thinks she mistook the branches of the hedge for "legs".

We learned from the parents that Anne-Marie had been unable to sleep for two nights following the sighting, and that they had had to take her in with them. François too was sleepless the first night. M. Delcher, a resident of Cussac who was shifting hay in his barn, had heard the whistling sound of the sphere as it rose. They also told us that the children were in tears when they came back with the cows (the children, perhaps from pride, did not mention this).

All this it must be agreed speaks in their favour. On the other hand, if they had invented this many-faceted story, it squares so well (apart from the smell of sulphur which as far as we know is something new in UFO stories) with the general structure of the UFO phenomenon, and with what so many people say they have seen, that one could more or less class it as a typical sighting, and suppose that François and Anne-Marie had read the specialised publications devoted to the subject. Certainly there are more and more of us who take an interest in the problem, but the spread of publications dealing with it remains very thin, and we doubt very much whether the children of a Cantal farmer, from one of the least densely populated areas of France, could have had knowledge, through one of these publications, of all the details (already more or less familiar to us) which they supplied.

His parents told us that François is in the Fourth Grade and is a hard-working child. Asked about his lessons, he mentioned the titles "Treasures of French Poetry", Georges Sand, and Chateaubriand, which presumably form part of his curriculum. On the other hand, he did not seem to us to have the sort of imagination which would lead him to invent such a story, and apart from the fear he felt at the time, he does not seem to have grasped the importance of all that he saw, nor all that it might imply. In any case, we still have to explain the whistling sound heard by M. Delcher, and the persistent smell of sulphur confirmed by the police.

All the above only strengthen the feeling, which we had had throughout the enquiry, that we were confronted by a passionately believed and deeply serious case, whose significance and importance we could not overemphasise. We have rarely heard evidence which gathered together so many major indications, or set us so many problems—problems which, for the most part, are already well-known, but on the subject of which, alas, we can only lose ourselves in conjecture. Here we find systematic avoidance of contact, even with children; the mystery of the machine's propulsive power (although here perhaps Jean Goupil's articles published in Nos. 11, 12 and 14 of *Phénomènes Spatiaux* bring us a little nearer clarity); the humanoid and yet somehow disturbing appearance of the beings. Questions about



Departure, with continuing sequence of events indicated numerically.

the origin and objectives of these beings remain yet again unanswered.

[*In his comments on this article,* **René Fouéré** *reminds us of two interesting points.*

First—when discussing the entities' somewhat unorthodox mode of alleged "re-embarkation"—he suggests that the sphere could have been solid, and surrounded by an envelope of ionised and luminescent gas, which, by its intense luminosity, masked a real and ordinary opening. He then recalls the famous Papuan case of June 21, 1959, *when Father Gill and his pupils at Boianai saw a solid object revealed by the extinction of a luminous envelope.*

Secondly, he writes of the "pilots" of the craft observed at Valensole (*July* 1, 1965) *which, according to the account in* PHENOMENES SPATIAUX *for September* 1966, *were described as "rising and falling in space like bubbles in a bottle without apparent support, or "sliding along bands of light"*—EDITOR.]

YOUR CLIPPINGS of newspaper items are very welcome. We apologise here for being generally unable to acknowledge these items as the pressure of work on our tiny staff and on our postage resources is too great. However, please do not be deterred by this seeming lack of courtesy. We really do appreciate anything you care to send.

STRANGERS ABOUT THE HOUSE

By Charles Bowen

With details of the Villa Carlos Paz landing

A CORRESPONDENT has taken me to task for devoting space in recent issues of the REVIEW to reported incidents of a "ghostly" nature which involve some very extraordinary and unreal "strangers".

Mr. F. D. Marrow of Flemington, New Jersey—a letter of his was published in the FSR *Mail Bag* column for July/August 1968—berates me for doing the "subject of ufology a great disservice" by attempting to connect UFOs with "graveyards and haunted houses." He states that . . . "On this basis UFOs will never communicate with the authorities or with the average man, and we will have to depend on mediums, and others with so-called psychic insight for information—and of course such reports can never be substantiated."

Our correspondent has jumped in quickly, without waiting the space of a few issues to see whether or not there was a reason for the inclusion of a spectre or two; without looking hard enough at the reports to see that they contained features well-known to those who have made a close study of the reports of the alleged occupants of UFOs. Nevertheless, his attitude does not surprise me, for new lines of thinking on any problem are bound to be repugnant either to those who are commited hard and fast to one particular hypothesis, or to those who have already solved the problem.

What does surprise me is that in his letter of June 28, 1968, Mr. Marrow should even imply that there is a possibility that UFOs could communicate with us, for as he indicated in his published letter—which was dated March 4, 1968—he agrees with Mr. Philip J. Klass[1] that UFOs are all fireballs.

History is littered with the miserable records of those who have endeavoured to interpret brand new phenomena, or revolutionary ideas, in terms only of known principles. These unfortunates have each had their little day leading the ridicule—or the persecution—directed against those who seek the truth. Ridicule is not a new thing to the subject which so holds our attention. The "Nuts and Bolts" brigade, who for twenty-one years have waited with varying degrees of patience for the extraterrestrial hypothesis to be proved correct, have suffered their share of ridicule; the cultists, who have waited almost as long for the fulfilment of all they hope for, have invited their share of it; anyone willing to face up to the possibility that there may be some connection between UFO phenomena and psychic phenomena will have to be prepared to suffer his share of it.

In the end, one or other of these lines of thought may well be proved to be correct, and the laugh will be on our detractors. Until that day arrives, however, it is incumbent upon us patiently to scrutinize all the facts or alleged facts that are presented. We should not discard a thing without absolute proof that it is false.

It is inescapable that nowadays *more* is being seen; if their accounts are to be believed, then a greater number of the witnesses to UFO occurrences are watching the whole of the "performance" than heretofore. We are receiving fuller accounts of entity appearances—with or without UFO—so unreal and seemingly pointless that they cry out for investigation. Cases of this kind prompted Maxwell Cade to postulate his theory that some people could be "seeing things" due to the effects of radiation, possibly from extra-terrestrial sources.[2] Such cases also support the idea that there is an overlap somewhere between UFO manifestations—with us through the ages—and ages-old psychic phenomena.

In an Aston "Villa"

Ten years ago I read, with surging disbelief, the strange account of Mrs. Cynthia Appleton[3]—which eventually found a place in my contribution to *The Humanoids*. On November 18, 1957, Mrs. Appleton, went to an upstairs bedroom of her Aston, Birmingham, house. She sensed an oppressiveness, and then saw the figure of a man appear in the way that a television picture appears, accompanied by a whistling noise. She was frightened, but was calmed by this "man's" influence on her. Tall and fair, the visitor was clad in a tight-fitting garment. His lips moved, but Mrs. Appleton could hear nothing, until she realised that unusual questions were racing through her mind. She claimed she learned that he was from another world, and was looking for a substance the name of which she thought sounded like *titium*.

According to Mrs. Appleton, her visitor indicated that he came from a world of peace and harmony, and by some unusual process involving his hand conveyed a picture to her of a saucer-shaped object with a dome. He disappeared in such a way that "suddenly he wasn't there any more."

This visitor returned to the Appleton establishment on subsequent occasions, sometimes accompanied by another figure.

Now that I am ten years older, and I hope, a little wiser, I find that I am also much more tolerant than heretofore. So I didn't sniff with disbelief when I came across two new incidents this year. The first was a British case of "Strangers in the house" in many ways similar to that of Mrs. Appleton. The second, a brand new incident from Argentina, is even more interesting than the others, and that by virtue of the fact that a flying saucer was observed near the house where the meeting took place.

Visitations at Bristol

The first of these incidents has been brought to my

attention by a reader, Gerald Lovell of St. George, Bristol. This is his report:

"The witness—in this case a housewife—wishes to remain anonymous for the present; she will be referred to as Mrs. B.

"The year was 1965, but the precise dates of the visitations were not known. Nevertheless, it is known that with the exception of one Thursday, they all took place on Mondays.

"Mrs. B. was always alone, usually busy in her kitchen. The door between the kitchen and the lounge was always kept open. Suddenly a strong compulsion to look into the lounge would fill her consciousness, and upon doing so she would invariably be confronted by the tall figure of a man. After a second or so she would turn away, and when returning her gaze to the spot where he had been standing, she would see that the figure had vanished.

"On other occasions Mrs. B. would be entering the room, having come from the kitchen, and on looking up she would see the figure. Never at any time did she actually see him appear, and she did not see him disappear, for this always took place when her gaze was averted.

"Her uninvited guest, quite solid in appearance, would simply stand looking at her, never attempting to communicate or move. Mrs. B. was unable to detect from his facial expression whether he was angry, surprised, or just plain bored. He never smiled, but Mrs. B. was adamant that at no time did she feel afraid of her visitor.

"The witness is an ordinary, down-to-earth sort of person, and it was several months before she revealed even to her husband all that had taken place. When relating her account to me, she suggested that perhaps it was a 'ghost' of someone long since dead—perhaps an airman. In no way did she connect the incidents with alien intervention. I also discovered that although she gave no thought to the subject, she had an open mind on the topic of 'flying saucers'.

"Mrs. B's description of the 'man' is as follows: he was tall, and even without the large, bulbous, silvery 'helmet' that he wore, she estimated that he topped 6ft. 3ins. Fair-skinned and rosy-cheeked, he was good-looking, with clear-cut features, blue eyes and a finely chiselled nose. Big and broad shouldered, he also appeared as if he never needed to shave.

"He was dressed in a sort of grey, metallic-looking two-piece suit, the coat being hip length, and also having a rounded collar at the neck. A belt, approximately 4 inches in width, of a darker material than the suit, and with a clasp, was worn. The trousers were not tight fitting, and were tucked into rather large, dark boots.

"At every appearance this 'visitor' always stood in the same spot facing the kitchen door, and in all made at least six appearances. This sequence ended just as suddenly as it began."

Mr. Lovell told me that he had known the witness for a great many years, and that he is confident that her account is of something that to her was a very real experience. He added that Mrs. B. never once spoke to her visitor, and that the visitations do not appear to have changed her life in any way. She wishes simply to forget the incidents—hence her request for anonymity.

Visitation near Cordoba, Argentina

The remaining case concerns the story of an entity who came in out of the cold at the town of Villa Carlos Paz, and surprised a young lady, Señorita María Eladia Pretzel, on the night of June 13-14, 1968

Villa Carlos Paz, in the province of Córdoba, is some 800 km to the west of Buenos Aires, the capital city of Argentina. It is to Señor Guillermo J. Gainza Paz and his group of friends in the capital, Associates of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, that I am particularly indebted for press accounts of this story. Nor must I forget the assistance of our friend Dr. W. Buhler of Rio de Janeiro.[4]

Señor Pedro Pretzel, 39, is well-known in the picturesque town of Villa Carlos Paz where he has lived for ten years. A well-educated man, he is proprietor of the Motel La Cuesta, a comfortable modern establishment on the highway entering the town from the east. Señor Pretzel lives at the motel with his wife and daughter María Eladia, 19, a pleasant, intelligent young person.

On the cold, wintry night in question, at about 00.50 hours, he was walking home from the deserted centre of the town when he saw, on National Highway 20 at a distance of some 50 metres beyond his motel,[5] an object which he was unable to identify, and which had two very bright red lights. These did not give the impression of being the rear lights of a car, for the device was projecting two beams of red light of great intensity. The "machine" was seen by the witness for only a few moments.

Puzzled, Señor Pretzel hurried to his motel and there found his daughter María lying in a swoon close to the kitchen door. When she had revived, his astonishment was heightened by the bizarre tale which his daughter told.

Up to a few minutes earlier María had been talking with her fiance, a young mechanic. After saying goodnight to him, she had then escorted some guests to one of the exits and returned to the kitchen.

The visitor

Suddenly she saw that a bright light was illuminating the vestibule. Puzzled—because she remembered that the lights had been switched off—she went to investigate, only to find herself face-to-face with a being about two metres in height, dressed in a kind of "diver's suit" of shining scales of a sky-blue colour. He had blond hair, and was holding in the palm of his left hand a sort of sky-blue ball, or sphere, which he kept moving about.

The various accounts also speak of the luminosity which was emitted from the tips of the being's hands and feet.

María stated that the visitor's right hand held a "huge ring, which had the form of a gauntlet half covering the hand". Another description stated that this ring "looked like a gauntlet, as it covered half the hand and was fastened to the fourth finger."

The visitor constantly moved his right hand up and down. On each upward movement María felt herself

overcome by a kind of languor as if all her strength had left her. It seemed that this happened as the light emanating from the tips of the fingers pointed at her. Her feelings returned to normal as the being lowered his hand.

Apart from this the interloper at no time showed any signs of aggressive intent, and Maria's impression of him is one of overall goodness and kindness, for he smiled throughout the visitation. He also seemed to be trying to communicate with her, although his lips never moved, for she could hear an unintelligible mumble—which "put her in mind of the Chinese or Japanese languages".

After a few minutes the visitor walked, with slow, precise movements, and absolutely silently, to the side exit which was open, and passed through. The door closed of its own accord without being touched by anybody. At that moment María lost consciousness, coming to later when her father was at her side.

Badly shaken by what his daughter had told him, Señor Pretzel reported the alleged incident to the police. After issuing an official report, the police stated they would mount an investigation.

Newspaper reporters later found María to be overcome by extreme nervousness and subject to fits of weeping. This was put down to her interpretation of the visitor's gestures and actions—to wit, that he would return.

The Pretzels are held in high esteem in the town of Villa Carlos Paz.

Speculations

Two new cases of strangers about the house, each in part similar to Mrs. Appleton's case of 1957, each with suits like those worn by "divers" or "airmen".

Without doubt the most important parts of this flying saucer mystery are the reports of UFO landings and of alleged occupants, or of unidentified walking objects. The whole thing is very, very complex, for the reports range from seemingly solid, chunky-type "pilots" of small stature (who generally seem uninterested in humans, or occasionally hostile) to "giants" and unearthly creatures like the "Mothman" or "Birds" of West Virginia[6], or the Flatwoods Monster[7]. Halfway between these extremes are the normal-sized, or slightly-more-than-normal-sized, apparently friendly, sometimes ethereal, often blond, creatures.

I confess I can lay no claim to know what this is all about, but I recall I once remarked in an article in the REVIEW[8] that there was talk of a "'war' in space". That was in 1963, and I think we should consider that there is still in a sense a "war", but not necessarily in interplanetary or interstellar space. Could this struggle not be the ages-old one between what we know as good and bad?

As already mentioned, C. Maxwell Cade has suggested it is possible that hypothetical entities could induce hallucinatory effects in the minds of "receptive" people. Mr. Cade envisaged this induction taking place from extraterrestrial sources; I wonder if it could be taking place between different levels of existence, from universes parallel with ours but with a different time stream. Have some (bad?) entities discovered a way of "seeping through"[9] to our level? Are there other (good?) entities who, knowing of this seepage, endeavour to warn us? Do their images come from their levels by radiation, by reflection, or by a means assisted by the passage of a machine—hence the marks, rings, "nests", allegedly left behind by UFOs—which, once here, can employ a radiation device to pass the message? (as could have been the case with María Pretzel). Can these entities materialize into a solid state, or do they remain as reflections or hallucinatory images in the mind, or are they capable of both these forms of intrusion upon us? Is this something of what lies behind both UFO phenomena and psychic phenomena?

Whether they come from worlds on other levels of existence, or from extraterrestrial worlds in our level of existence, someone somewhere is trying, it seems, to get through to us. Maybe they are even attempting to warn us. These warnings need not necessarily be, as the contactees often claim, against ourselves, but against other-world entities whose visitations are in no way connected with human welfare.

Is this the meaning behind these eerie indoor intrusions? Is this the meaning of contact?

It seems to me there is a very good reason for the introduction into our studies of a "ghost" or two, especially where there is a hint that the ghostly appearance is connected in some way with a UFO report. I will never tire of insisting that we must not reject *anything*—however silly it seems—where there could be connections with our subject.

NOTES

[1] Klass, Philip J. *UFOs—Identified*, Random House Inc., New York.
[2] Cade, C. Maxwell. *A Long Cool Look at Alien Intelligence Pt. IV FSR* November/December 1967; *Pt. V* March April 1968.
[3] See *Birmingham Woman meets Spaceman*, FSR March/April 1958.
[4] Newspaper accounts from: *La Razon*, June 15, 1968; *La Nacion*, June 15, 1968; *A Noticia*, Rio de Janeiro, June 17, 1968.
[5] *La Nacion* says Sr. Pretzel was about 500 metres away when he saw the object.
[6] See Keel, John A. *West Virginia's Enigmatic 'Bird'*, FSR July/August 1968.
[7] For a complete report see: Sanderson, Ivan T. *Uninvited Visitors*, Cowles Education Corp. (Due to be published in U.K. by Neville Spearman Ltd.).
[8] Bowen, Charles *Time, Saucers and the Fourth Dimension* FSR May/June 1963.
[9] "Seeping through": Gordon Creighton's description in private discussion.

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THE 1897 STORY — I

By Jerome Clark & Lucius Farish

THE FILE on the great UFO flap of 1897—if and when it is published *in toto*—will be both immense and revealing. It will spotlight a major but almost completely unrecognised area of human experience: the relationship between unexplained phenomena and mankind; and, properly understood, it will enable us to interpret the vast mysteries suggested by the appearance of unknown aerial vessels in our own time. It will show us how limitations in human consciousness prevent acknowledgment of the real nature of extramundane occurrences; even more important, it will demonstrate how these limitations affect *the occurrences themselves*.

Most students of the Unknown, unfortunately, have yet to grasp this last point. If they did, they would find that the forces responsible for all those manifestations of what Allen Greenfield likes to call "alternate reality" (whatever *that* means) possess remarkable insight into human perception, to the degree that these forces (however they choose to pose) can appear or disappear, or communicate nonsense or remain silent, or merely imply what they know will be inferred. They cannot mask all of their activities, but they can make certain that what we experience is not what actually happened. On another level (and they work on many levels, partially because they are in conflict) they can deliberately show themselves in attempts to establish limited contacts for specific objectives, only adapting guises to prevent those they approach from going insane or dying from sheer fright.

These considerations must enter strongly into any theorising whose point of departure is 1897. Evidently, contact of one kind was being sought, and contact of another kind was being avoided. Contact whose intention was to reinforce the carefully nurtured terrestrial origin idea was not at all uncommon. Such incidents, in fact, numbered in the thousands.

A case of deception ?

In the contacts we have uncovered to date, however, we have not found anything about the purpose of the whole affair. *Is* there anything at all important contained in these contacts—anything we can infer beyond the observation that the ufonauts used deception? *How much* deception? Are the "messages" imparted by the airships' occupants of no significance, or are there truths in them, hidden somewhere amidst the lies, that are not readily apparent? In other words, were the incidents of 1897 an attempt by the ufonauts to establish a kind of communication with us—or were they a means, instead, to keep us as far as possible from an awareness of what they were and what they were doing?

Obviously, if the ufonauts were attempting to impart something to us, it was not that superhuman agencies were operating on Earth—something quite the contrary. But by flying over cities, following trains, landing, and in other ways revealing themselves to tens of thousands of Americans, the airships insured, whether intentionally or not, that they would be sighted by great numbers of witnesses.

Something was going on between human beings and ufonauts, or the latter would never have gone to the trouble of assuming the "terrestrial" rôle. What this "something" was, what the place of the 1897 events in the history of humanity's dealings with entities from elsewhere is, what the ufonauts have tried to tell us or not to tell us—these are matters that publication of the whole 1897 story may clear up.

The Midwestern "airship" story unfolds

Newspapers in the Midwestern United States first became aware of strange objects in the air when reporters began wiring in accounts of a glowing fireball. The Hudson, Michigan, *Post*, in a dispatch out of Jefferson, related that on March 26: "A beautiful ball of fire was seen in the clouds of this place. For a short time it was very bright, and then it appeared to go down. It lasted for some time." And, according to the Grand Traverse *Herald* for April 1: "A beautiful ball of fire was seen in the clouds near Holland the other night. One moment it was brilliant, the next dimmed, as if covered by a veil. It lasted about an hour."

Then events began to crystallise with an account from Galesburg, Michigan. On the night of March 31, at about 10 o'clock, a brilliant white object, accompanied by "a sharp crackling sound", soared over the city and was visible for 30 seconds or so. One of the witnesses maintained that the phenomenon was a huge black object tipped with flame and flying far above the earth. A Mrs. Wyngate, in nearby Charleston township, swore that she heard human voices from above at the time of the sighting.

As excitement about the airship swept through mid-America, some curious persons stayed out nights to watch for signs of the construction, and one man claimed to have had a terrifying experience as the occupants of the craft tried either to kidnap him or just to play some weird practical joke. One night Robert Hibbard, tramping about his Iowa farm hoping to see the airship, caught sight of a dark object, lighted on each side by what appeared to be incandescent lamps, as it flew in from the south at a mile altitude. When it came directly over his head, the machine changed direction and descended until a grapnel attached to the end of a drag rope hooked his trousers. Then the ship rose again and headed back in the direction it had come. Terrified, Hibbard was dragged some distance, saving himself only when he grabbed on to a small sapling with both hands. The hook tore through his pants, and the airship continued on its way.

Iowa had a large number of sightings throughout late

March and early April. One of them, one of several during the period involving railroads, was made by station agents and operators all along the Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Northern Railway on April 8. First seen at Cedar Rapids at 9 p.m., an airship moved slowly down the line until it faded from view an hour later. A newspaper account describes it as "having a bright, glaring headlight revealing a glistening steel hull, dim wing-like projections on each side, and producing a hissing sound as it glides through the air."

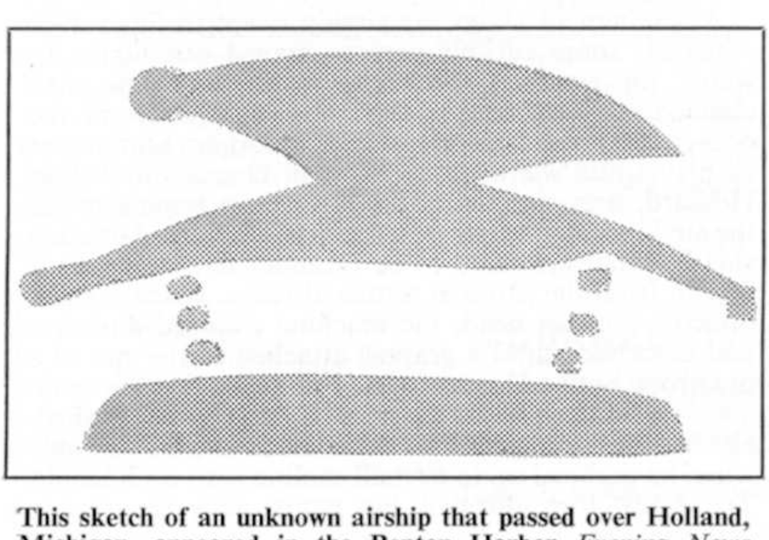
Another railroad story came from engineer F. L. Bullard, on engine 950 of the fast mail, whose train a large airship raced out of Chicago. The airship, by Bullard's estimate, travelled 150 miles an hour as it rapidly outdistanced the locomotive.

Message from "Pegasus"

Residents of Appleton, Wisconsin, saw the mysterious object pass over their city on the night of the 11th, and a few days later, N. B. Clark, a farmer living north of the town, found an 18in. iron rod sticking in the ground. Attached to it, he told a local newspaper, was an unsigned letter:

> Aboard the Airship "Pegasus", April 9, 1897—The problem of aerial navigation has been solved. The writers have spent the past month cruising about in the airship "Pegasus" and have demonstrated to their entire satisfaction that the ship is a thorough success. We have been able to attain a speed of 150 miles an hour and have risen to a height of 2,500 feet above sea level.
>
> The "Pegasus" was erected at a secluded point ten miles from Layfayette, Tenn., and the various parts of the machine were carried overland from Glasgow, Ky., to that point, being shipped from Chicago, Pittsburg and St. Louis. We have made regular trips of three days each from Layfayette to Yaukon, and no harm has come to the "Pegasus" thus far.
>
> Within a month our application for the patents for a parallel plane air ship will be filed simultaneously at Washington and the European capitals. The ship is propelled by steam and is lighted by electricity and has a carrying power of 1,000 pounds.

Hundreds of Holland, Michigan, residents watched an airship floating over Black Lake at 8.35 on the night



This sketch of an unknown airship that passed over Holland, Michigan, appeared in the Benton Harbor *Evening News* of April 19, 1897.

of the 11th. "It was a large dark mass," stated the Grand Rapids *Evening Press* the next day, "apparently lighted with coloured electric lights." After hovering for several minutes, it travelled north-west "in a zig-zag style" and soon disappeared from sight.

In the midst of all this, odd tales of an unknown four-legged creature began to circulate. The Niles, Michigan, *Weekly Mirror* for April 14 reported, "That terrible animal that made its appearance near Pine Lake and Edwardsburg last year came again the latter part of the week. The men spearing on Pine Lake made for the shore rapidly and three guns were fired in the direction of the terrible noise." Whatever this "terrible noise" was, the creature escaped. The Saginaw *Evening News* a few days later noted that the animal had slaughtered sheep and cattle, and resembled a panther.*

At about the same time various people in the Niles area saw a huge lighted object (on the night of the 11th), and an airship put in an appearance at Pine Lake just several days later, according, at least, to the nearly incredible testimony of William Megiveron.

Megiveron told the Lansing *State Republican* that on the night of the 15th he was awakened by a tap on his window, and when he opened his eyes, an intense glare of light nearly blinded him. Stepping outside, he heard a voice from above him. The voice explained that the light emanated from the airship, which had lain concealed behind a bank of clouds since afternoon, when a stray shot from a duckhunter's gun had injured one of the wings. The occupants had been working on repairs since then, the voice said. It then asked for four dozen egg sandwiches and a kettle of coffee for the crew. After Megiveron had complied, a large scoop containing Canadian quarters in payment was lowered from the clouds and pulled back up when the supplies had been loaded on.

The witness thought the craft hovered at an altitude of 300ft., and that it might be as much as half a mile long. All he could see, however, were the outlines of the machine, due to the brilliant searchlight "which made everything below as bright as day and above as dark as midnight during a cyclone."

Megiveron asked several times to be taken aboard, but hoots of laughter greeted each request. He suspected that the crew might have been drinking, since they had asked for a corkscrew.

Whatever the case, just as dawn started to break, the airship took off, heading toward the city.

At least twenty persons observed an airship hovering above the Battle Creek, Michigan, sanatorium on the night of the 12th. According to them, the craft was all ablaze with lights. Describing the phenomenon, a Mr. Dixon said, "The upper part was in the form of a cone, from which was suspended a large object, cylindrical in form. At the rear end of the lower object was some kind of wheel, which made a buzzing sound that was distinctly heard."

Suddenly there was an explosion. Sparks flew, and the ship began to descend from an altitude of a mile down to a half-mile. Another explosion sounded, sparks flew from the wheel, and the craft began to rise again. Its two lights—a red one in front, a light blue one behind—went out, and it no longer could be seen.

Explosion over Kalamazoo

At Kalamazoo, George W. Somers and William Chadburn saw a lighted object passing over them at a great speed. Within moments they heard a dull explosion, followed by a sound as of projectiles flying through the air. Several other people told the newspapers that they, too, had heard an explosion, but had passed it off as thunder.

"But the discoveries of the morning are sufficient to establish the veracity of the two actual observers," noted the Bay City *Times-Press*. "In one place, two miles from Scotts, there was found a large coil of heavy wire, evidently a part of some electrical appliance. At another point a propeller blade of some very light material was discovered in a partially fused condition. Three men engaged in shingling a barn in Comstock township affirm that, upon resuming work on the morning following the occurrence, they found their completed work covered with minute fragments which had in some instances penetrated the shingles and entered the boards beneath."

In a related incident, the next evening an airship crossed over lower Michigan; among the witnesses were Mr. and Mrs. George Parks of Pennfield, who saw a very bright "humming" object flying about 100ft. above their farm. When a portion of it broke off and buried itself into the ground, Parks' wife, badly frightened, would not let her husband approach it.

The next morning Parks and his brother Benjamin dug it up and found a large aluminium wheel, three feet in diameter and in the shape of a turbine. "This is the first time," Parks commented, "that I ever heard of a meteor having wheels." Not particularly impressed, the Saginaw *Courier-Herald* asked, "Will someone tell how an aluminium wheel, made presumably as light as possible consistent with required strength, would fall and bury itself so far in the ground that it would have to be dug up?"

A number of reports on the 12th, in any case, suggest that a crippled airship may have been in operation. At 2.30 p.m. a craft landed at the farm of Z. Thacker near Nilwood, Illinois, and was seen by three men. At 6, a large crowd of miners watched it alight in a grove north of the Green Ridge mining camp. The craft fled as the observers began walking toward it. Sightings were later made at Sherman (8 p.m.) and Williamsville (8.45). "Those who saw it," stated a newspaper account, "say it had a boat which was cigar-shaped, with ears or wings extending from the side, and a canopy on the top similar to a picnic stand." Near Green Ridge a mine operator while hunting saw a man working on the airship's machinery. "The fact of its alighting twice and remaining such a long time in the same locality," the newspaper writer suggested, "leads to the conclusion that the machinery was injured in some manner."

On the 13th, lumberman James G. Macpherson, eating supper in the dining car of a train stopped at Spooner, Wisconsin, had his attention drawn to a strange ruddy glow in the sky. Macpherson estimated it to be ten miles away at first, but in 15 minutes it had flown within half a mile of the train. The witness could not see any definite shape with his naked eye but was certain that he would have been able to with the aid of binoculars. The light "dipped" and then flew away, and was quickly lost to sight.

Professor John Friske of Harvard, a writer on scientific subjects, was another witness to the sighting. Friske told a reporter that anyone who had doubts about the airship's existence should direct his questions to him.

Warned that the airship was approaching, over 150 persons gathered at the depot in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, the same night. The story had been telegraphed from Merrillan by an operator who had seen the craft himself. Shortly afterwards, some of the spectators, among them the Eau Claire depot agent, viewed the high-flying construction through field glasses.

About the same time that night, several individuals in Waukegan, Illinois, watched a red light moving on an erratic course for the north. It was visible for about an hour. Earlier, an object with blue, red and green lights sailed over Benton Harbor and St. Joseph in Michigan. William Peckmann sighted a similar phenomenon over Adrian.

Creature Report

According to several Michigan newspapers, a curious incident occurred at about 4.30 on the afternoon of the 14th, when a balloon-like object, after hovering for an hour near Reynolds, descended and alighted on the ground. A group of farmers cautiously approached and were able to observe a "strange man," 9½ft. in height, sitting inside the craft. Next to him lay stacks of heavy clothes "which looked like the pelts of polar bears," yet he was almost naked, as if suffering from the heat.

ADVERTISEMENT

BUFORA NEWS

Northern Conference in Manchester

The Direct Investigation Group On Aerial Phenomena will be acting as hosts. The conference will be held on Saturday, 12th October 1968 in the Friends Meeting House, Manchester. For tickets and details, send a S.A.E. to Mrs. J. Nelstrop, Hon. Sec., DIGAP, 5, Ridgmont Road, Bramhall, Cheshire.

Local Societies

BUFORA now has over 21 affiliated societies and groups. Most of these hold meetings locally and several issue their own publications. A list of organisations is published in BUFORA JOURNAL.

For details of the BRITISH UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT RESEARCH ASSOCIATION, its London lectures and BUFORA JOURNAL, send a 9in. x 4in. S.A.E. to Miss C. Henning (FSR), 99, Mayday Gardens, London S.E.3.

His speech sounded like bellowing. One farmer walked over to the being, apparently in an attempt to communicate, but the creature, none too hospitable evidently, kicked him savagely and broke his hip.

Reported the Saginaw *Courier-Herald* in a dispatch out of Reynolds, "Great excitement prevails here, and lots of people are flocking here from Morley and Howard City to view the strange being at a distance, as no one dares to go near. He seems to be trying to talk to the people. The people here are incredulous, and those who have not seen refuse to believe the report, although six of the best people in that locality are here and affirm that it is the truth. From their excited manners we are led to believe that no hoax exists. His balloon seems to be out of repair. At 8.10 last evening the airship passed south and a little west of Howard City. Hundreds of people watched its flight."

Other reports of airships were made at Constantine and Battle Creek, Michigan, and Hillsboro, Illinois, that night. In each case witnesses told of sighting red lights on the craft.

NOTE

* See Charles Bowen's *Mystery Animals*, FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, November/December 1964.

FURTHER READING

Jerome Clark, *A Contact Claim*, FSR, January/February 1965.
The Strange Case of the 1897 *Airship*, FSR, July/August 1966.
More on 1897, FSR, July/August 1967.
Gordon W. Creighton, *Saucers and South Africa*, FSR, September/October 1962.
Lucius Farish, *An 1880 UFO*, FSR, May/June 1965.
Donald B. Hanlon, *Texas Odyssey of* 1897, FSR, September/October 1966.
—— and Jacques Vallée, *Airships over Texas*, FSR, January/February 1967.
W. H. Watson, *19th Century Paraglider?* FSR, November/December 1967.

TWENTY YEARS BACK

By Brinsley le Poer Trench

DURING the course of the hearing on UFOs before the House Armed Services Committee of Congress on April 5, 1966, Major Hector Quintanilla, Jr., head of the U.S. Air Force project Bluebook, was asked by Congressman Richard S. Schweiker of Pennsylvania if it was true that none of the UFOs had been tracked on radar.

The major replied: "We have no radar cases which are unexplained."[1]

This, of course, was an ambiguous and unsatisfactory reply. Whether the major intended to imply that no UFOs had ever been tracked on radar or whether radar sightings had all been rationally explained during his own tenureship of office is not clear. However, his answer could not have done our cause any good in front of the powerful committee.

Certainly, any implication that UFOs have not been tracked on radar must be refuted and nailed down once and for all.

In 1948, especially during the last quarter, there were many instances of UFOs being picked up on radar. I think it useful to close my 1948 casebook with a look at some of these.

On December 27, 1949, Project Saucer was finally closed down and soon afterwards succeeded by Project Sign. (Both these projects were prior to the formation of Bluebook in 1951). Aimé Michel in his excellent book[2] gives credit to Major Donald E. Keyhoe for digging out the following cases from the final report of Project Saucer. These cases are given here verbatim from that report.

Case 188. Goose Bay, Labrador, October 29, 1948: A non-astronomical phenomenon traced by radar. The experts should investigate the evidence.

Case 189. Goose Bay again, October 31, 1948: An identical phenomenon, followed by radar.

Case 196. Object travelling against the wind. Observed by radar.

Case 198. A spot on the radar screen moving rapidly and changing direction continuously.

It is interesting to note, too, what one of Major Quintanilla's predecessors at Project Bluebook has to tell us about radar sightings in 1948. The late Edward J. Ruppelt described in his book[3] how on October 15, 1948, an F-61, a World War II "Black Widow" night fighter, was flying over Japan *when it got a UFO on its radar*. The object was at an altitude of about 5,000-6,000ft., and moving about at 200 mph. The fighter tried to get close but the UFO accelerated to around 1,200 mph, far outstripping its pursuer. Ruppelt wrote that the aircrew made six attempts to close in on the UFO. However, on one attempt they did get close enough to observe that the UFO was about 20 to 30ft. long and shaped "like a rifle bullet".

Ruppelt went on to relate how a wire was received from Germany on November 23, giving details of what he emphasised was the first report where *a UFO was seen from the air and simultaneously tracked on radar*. This concerned an air force pilot who spotted what looked like a reddish star moving in a southerly direction across Munich. The pilot called base operations and they contacted the radar station. At first radar reported seeing nothing, but after checking again called back to state they did have a target at 27,000ft, some 30 miles south of Munich, travelling at 900 mph. The pilot reported that the object he saw was now in that area. A few minutes later radar called again to say that the UFO had climbed to 50,000ft. and was circling 40 miles south of Munich.

Ruppelt added that the Air Weather Service stated the object was not a balloon. No other aircraft was in the area.

The cases that I have outlined indicate quite clearly that as long ago as 1948 UFOs were being tracked on radar over such widely scattered areas as Germany, Japan and the United States.

Since then there have been a great many radar trackings of UFOs. The late Frank Edwards in his last book[1] states that the Civil Aeronautics Administration

(*continued on page* 22)

UFOs AND COMMERCIAL AIR TRAFFIC

Probable allocation of liability after a UFO-caused crash

By DAVID BROBECK Jr.

Part I — A Hypothetical case

Our contributor, who lives in San Diego, California, is a student at law school

JOHN DOE boarded defendant American Airline's 727 jet, Flight 211, at approximately 1.45 p.m. on March 21, 1969, for a flight from San Diego, California, to Las Vegas, Nevada. At 12.15 p.m. on that same day, defendant Airline's chief flight dispatcher at their San Diego facility monitored a series of radio transmissions between a Federal Aviation Agency Air Traffic Control official in Los Angeles and the pilot of American Airlines Flight 186, then en route from Las Vegas, Nevada, to San Diego, California. The pilot of this flight reported encountering two unidentified flying objects, commonly termed "UFOs", over an area of the Mojave Desert near the town of Ludlow.

Flying in formation, the objects approached the plane head-on at high speed from the north-east; the pilot reported that he was forced to take immediate evasive action, and the plane made a rapid descent of approximately 3,000ft. Several passengers were injured, though none seriously, and ambulances were requested and utilised when the flight arrived in San Diego. The unusual objects were also reported to ATC by two other commercial flights that crossed the same area minutes after Flight 186; in each case, the unknowns had made rapid head-on approaches, veering away at the last possible moment.

American Airlines, in view of the continued encounters with the UFOs over that area of the Mojave Desert, and the scheduled departure of Flight 211, contacted the Federal Aviation Agency (FAA) headquarters in Los Angeles and Las Vegas. Officials at these offices had previously consulted by telephone with members of the staff of Project Blue Book, the official U.S. Air Force UFO investigation with headquarters at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio. Subsequent to these communications, defendant American Airlines was notified by the FAA facility in Los Angeles that the unidentified objects represented no threat to any aircraft which might pass over the area in question.

At approximately 2.05 p.m., the pilot of Flight 211 contacted the Air Traffic Control (ATC) facility in Las Vegas and reported the visual sighting of a pair of unknown craft, apparently metallic, closing fast from the north-west at the approximate distances of four miles and elevation of 30,000ft.—the same altitude at which Flight 211 was then proceeding. Las Vegas ATC advised that although there were no other known aircraft in the area, their radar showed two slow-moving blips approaching the plane from the north at a distance of approximately five miles. The pilot then reported that one of the objects had turned to the north-east, but that the other appeared to be rapidly accelerating toward the plane. Radio communication was suddenly broken off, and when the flight became overdue at the Las Vegas terminal, a ground-air search was instituted. Thirty minutes later the wreckage was spotted from the air, and the initial rescue teams on the scene reported no signs of life in the scattered wreckage.

In the official Civil Aeronautics Board Report on the crash, the cause was not specifically attributed to the UFO, although the flight recorder indicated a collision was imminent. Investigators reported that there was clear evidence of a mid-air collision due to the wide separation of the two concentrations of wreckage; a mid-air explosion was ruled not to have been the cause for such a divergence, since the rear-fuselage and tail section had apparently been sheared off. When located, these portions of the plane showed no signs of explosion or fire. There was also convincing evidence that the main portion of the craft did not burn until it impacted on the ground.

Mary Doe, the surviving wife and sole heir of passenger John Doe, filed a complaint in the United States District Court located in the city of San Diego, naming American Airlines, the United States Government, and Pacific Fidelity Insurance Company as co-defendants.

Article IV of that complaint charged the U.S. Government with extreme negligence in prematurely deciding that the UFOs represented no threat to any aircraft, and for providing assurances to the defendant Airline Company of that belief. It read in part as follows:

> "At said time and place defendants, through the acts of their employee then within the scope of his official duties, wilfully and intentionally demonstrated wanton disregard for the safety and welfare of the passengers and crew of said commercial airplane in failing to investigate the unknown objects before concluding that they were a mere misrepresentation of some conventional phenomenon . . . and, as a direct and proximate result of such assurances as aforesaid, any by reason of the resulting crash and fire, decedent suffered injuries which resulted in his death."

The circumstances of this hypothetical disaster and subsequent litigation are not as improbable or remote as they might at first appear. Unidentified flying objects have been sighted on a world-wide basis in increasing numbers over the past 22 years, and many of the best documented and most detailed accounts can be found in the official reports filed by experienced pilots who have encountered the strange phenomena. Military and airline pilots are among the most experienced observers of the sky. Their occupation requires them to spend hundreds of hours in the air, a fact which makes it necessary for them to possess a practical knowledge

of other aircraft, weather conditions, and various atmospheric phenomena. It should also be noted that professional pilots are generally trained in rapid identification of anything which may endanger a flight.

Before turning to a discussion of the legal implications arising from my hypothetical case, it seems first of all necessary to substantiate the possible occurrence of such a series of events.

Recorded close encounters

The first and most obvious questions that one might ask are, "Have UFOs actually made rapid head-on approaches toward aircraft, and if so, has there been any evidence that such encounters represented a threat to the plane or its occupants?" The answer to both questions is a definite "yes", and undoubtedly the first such case on record occurred in 1947—the same year that UFOs made their initial mass appearance in the United States. The incident took place on July 8 of that year, and Major Edward J. Ruppelt, the former head of Project Blue Book, mentioned it in his fine book, *The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects.*[1] An Air Force pilot, whose name was officially deleted, was flying near Los Angeles, California, in his P-51 when he was approached by a flat, round object which reportedly reflected the sunlight as it passed above his fighter. Approximately one year later, the first close encounter with a commercial airliner occurred in the vicinity of Montgomery, Alabama; it is regarded as one of the "classic" UFO cases of all-time.

At 2.45 a.m. on July 23, 1948, Eastern Airlines pilots C. S. Chiles and J. B. Whitted saw a brilliant object swoop up toward their DC-3, hurtling head-on toward them. The object then dived and veered to the right of the airliner, emitted a reddish-orange exhaust blast, and accelerated vertically into the clouds above. The pilots later described the UFO as cigar-shaped, with brightly-lit "windows" along the side; its size was estimated at approximately 100ft. This case seems especially relevant to my hypothetical situation of a UFO-caused crash because the big Eastern Airlines plane was reportedly "rocked" when the UFO climbed away; this fact appears in the Air Force Project "Sign" Report taken from the witnesses' original accounts.[2]

On October 5, 1950, a California Central Airlines plane was approached head-on by a UFO with body lights over San Fernando, California. Captain Cecil Hardin and his first-officer Jack Conroy watched the object suddenly dip and pass below their plane, and Captain Hardin later described it as wing-shaped and without any fuselage; bands of blue light were visible across its width.[3]

A bright light was observed on January 20, 1951, from the control tower at the Sioux City, Iowa, Airport. Chief controller John Williams alerted a Mid-Continent DC-3, which has just taken off, asking them to investigate. Before they could do anything, pilots Lawerence Vinther and James Bachmeier saw the brilliant light closing on them very rapidly. The light flashed past, and they saw a clear silhouette of a cigar-shaped object behind the light. The object then reversed direction, paced the airliner for a moment, and shot straight up and disappeared.[4]

A British incident

Only one of a dozen known foreign reports of airplane UFO near-misses took place over Essex, England, on October 4, 1954. An RAF pilot, F/Lt. J. R. Saladin of the 604th Fighter Squadron, was flying his Meteor jet out of North Weald, Essex, when he had a near-collision with a strange object. It appeared metallic and of tremendous size, and was shaped like two saucers pressed together (double-convex). At the last possible moment it allegedly tilted on one side and swooped past at fantastic speed. Two other UFOs had been reported speeding between two other Meteor jets a short time earlier in the same vicinity.[5]

Returning to the United States, a Pan American Airways plane én route from Miami to New York City was approached by two UFOs flying in formation. Captain J. King stated that the two objects were reddish-green in colour, and shot past the airliner at close range.[6]

Evasive action by pilots

The final three cases which deserve mention all have two things in common—the pilots of each airliner, fearing a mid-air collision, took sudden evasive action, and in each instance a number of passengers were injured. The first of these incidents took place on October 19, 1953, when an American Airlines DC-6, 15 minutes out of Philadelphia for Washington, D.C., encountered a shining object hovering in and out of the thin clouds ahead. The co-pilot spotted it first, and called it to the attention of Captain J. L. Kidd. Both men agreed that it did not resemble a plane, and that it carried no running lights as required. Captain Kidd cut back his airspeed and switched on the landing lights as a warning. It was then he realised that the object was approaching him at high speed. There was no time to warn the passengers, only time to jam the wheel forward and put the airliner in a steep downward arc. Passengers without seat belts fastened were thrown upward and then down when the plane levelled off. The pilot immediately contacted National Airport and was informed that there were no other planes in the area. The *Washington Post* reported the near-miss the next day, confirming the fact that ambulances took some passengers to hospitals, but that first aid was all that was necessary.[7]

Six months later, a similar incident occurred, again here in California, over the city of Long Beach. Just before midnight on April 14, 1954, an unknown object loomed out of the blackness and narrowly missed a United Airlines plane. The pilot, Captain J. M. Schiedel, stated that the object had no running lights until it was directly in front of the plane; at that moment a bright red light flashed on the side of the object to Captain Schiedel's right, and fearing a collision, he yanked back on the wheel and the plane climbed abruptly. A stewardess suffered a broken ankle, and a passenger identified as C. Barber was thrown down the aisle so violently that his left leg was broken; other passengers were tossed about and suffered skin abrasions and bruises. The official CAB report states that there was a near-miss with an "unidentified craft" at 5,000ft. in clear sky over Long Beach.[8]

A Pan American Airways Douglas DC6A en route from New York City to San Juan, Puerto Rico, was flying west of the customary course to avoid a storm; the date was March 9, 1957. At 3.30 a.m. Captain Matt Van Winkle was approximately 150 miles east of Jacksonville, Florida, when an intensely brilliant beam of light appeared to his right and below the plane. He immediately pulled the big plane into a steep climb to avoid a collision. A number of passengers were injured, and the plane was met by ambulances at the San Juan airport. To further substantiate the report, four other plane crews in the same general area had seen the same or a similar object within a few minutes of this Pan Am case; it was uniformly described as a glowing thing with a brilliant light on the front and a reddish glow or exhaust on the rear. The eventual Air Force "explanation" was that the pilots had seen only a shooting star, or meteorite. This conclusion seems unlikely since Van Winkle and at least one other pilot reported the object *below* the horizon.[9]

The Calcutta Comet disaster

Although there have been at least three military pilots killed while pursuing UFOs,[10] to date the best evidence for a UFO-caused airliner crash is purely circumstantial, the best example being the disaster near Calcutta in May of 1953. A British-built Comet jetliner mysteriously crashed, and although the pilot had not reported sighting a UFO, that particular month was one of the most heavily saturated ever with UFO sightings on a world-wide basis. The first investigator to reach the crash site was experienced in this kind of work. After examining the wreckage he reportedly told newsmen: "The Comet struck some sort of heavy solid object while in flight." This analysis was immediately denied by the British authorities, many of whom suggested lightning as the probable cause. The official Indian Government investigation expressed the belief that the wide divergence in the wreckage occurred when the port wing came off and sheared the tail section from the main fuselage. Still unexplained, however, is the fact that much of the upper front portion of the main cabin, including the pilot's compartment, was also apparently sheared off and found some distance from the main wreckage.[11]

Pilots' procedure for reporting UFOs

It is important at this point to note what procedures would be followed when an airline pilot makes a sighting of an unidentified craft. In talking with a number of FAA controllers I learned that the exact procedure is not clearly defined; most agreed that the pilot's report would be relayed from their Air Traffic Control (ATC) room to the nearest military airfield, not necessarily an Air Force installation.[12] Here in San Diego, for instance, the ATC headquarters is located in the main operations building at the Mirimar Naval Air Station, and all aircraft flying below 23,000ft. in a specified "block" of airspace are within the control of this ATC unit. This particular jurisdiction extends from the Mexican border north to El Toro Marine Air Station, east to Julian, and west to a point some 30 miles from the coastline. Planes flying above the 23,000ft. level are handled by the much larger Los Angeles ATC facility, as were the flights mentioned in the imaginary case. Airport control tower operators generally communicate with planes at or near their respective terminals, whereas the ATC may be in continuous communication with a flight, providing information on nearby air traffic, weather conditions, and other pertinent data. Planes approaching an airport do not switch to the tower frequency until the ATC controller has directed them to within approximately six miles of the runway.[13]

It should also be noted that all commercial airline companies have their own private communication links between their airport ground stations and all of their planes aloft. This is known as the air-radiotelephone system, and, as in my hypothetical case, the company's dispatcher could monitor communications between ATC personnel and their pilots.

Assuming a military installation other than an Air Force base received a UFO report from an ATC facility, they are required to relay the information immediately to the nearest Air Force Base.[14] The commander of that base is then required by Air Force Regulation 200-2 to "report all information and evidence of UFO sightings, including information and evidence received from other services, Government agencies, and civilian sources. Investigators are authorised to make telephone calls from the investigation area direct to the Foreign Technology Division (FTD) of the Air Force Systems Command, Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. . . . The purpose of the calls is to report high priority findings."[15]

Secrecy in U.S. Air Force investigation of UFOs

One section of the order is especially noteworthy in connection with an aspect of the Air Force UFO investigation I intend to discuss later in greater detail, namely, their policy of secrecy on the subject of UFOs. This provision reads as follows:

"In response to local inquiries regarding any UFO reported in the vicinity of an Air Force base, the commander of the base concerned may release information to the press or general public *only after positive identification of the sighting as a familiar or known object*."[16]

A brief historical outline of the Air Force's UFO investigation is important at this point in the analysis for several reasons, all of which are likely to affect the probable outcome of my hypothetical lawsuit. For years, critics have charged that the Air Force practises an intolerable degree of secrecy in matters regarding UFOs, and there is abundant evidence to support charges of inadequate investigations and even deliberate "cover-ups". If, in my hypothetical case, the staff of Project Blue Book neglected to make a recommendation as to the possible danger of the UFOs, or failed to order an immediate investigation, some degree of liability would seem to be theirs if the crash occurred as I have stated; this result would also follow if they informed the ATC officials to use their own judgment in advising the airlines or their pilots, or where they summarily concluded that the objects represented no threat.

Despite a large number of reported encounters with UFOs by reliable commercial airline pilots, it is doubtful whether the Air Force recognises the threat, or even the reality of the occurrences. Undoubtedly

the foremost authority on UFOs—not only in this country but around the world—is Dr. J. Allen Hynek, director of the Department of Astronomy at Northwestern University. He has held the position as chief scientific consultant on UFOs for the Air Force for over 18 years, and has investigated personally many of the most remarkable, and still unexplained, sightings. I recently received a most interesting letter from Dr. Hynek in which he expressed his own views as to the Air Force's position on airliner-UFO cases. Dr. Hynek seems to support my view as to what the Air Force reaction would be if the events I proposed took place:

"The Air Force would most assuredly say from their data to date that the reported objects do not represent any threat to air flights. . . . The Air Force might figure that there is more danger to an air flight from a meteor or a re-entering satellite than there is from a UFO."[17]

One of Dr. Hynek's final remarks will provide an excellent example of the attitude taken by the Air Force in this area:

"I believe it would be fair to say that to the present the Air Force does not recognise as valid any reported encounter of an airline with a UFO, although a few pieces of that sort have been listed as unidentified."[18]

It seems unlikely that Air Force policy would undergo a radical "about-face" if Project Blue Book received a series of reports from the ATC of airline pilots' close encounters. Although this does not necessarily mean that an investigation would not be ordered, an order for the cancellation of flights seems unlikely: Dr. Hynek concurs with me in this regard also.[19]

NOTES

1 Ruppelt, Edward J., *Report on Unidentified Flying Objects* (Doubleday, 1956), p. 161.
2 *Flying*, July 1950; *Saturday Evening Post*, May 7, 1949.
3 *San Francisco Chronicle*, October 7, 1950; also reported in *The UFO Evidence*, published by the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP), Richard H. Hall, editor, 1964, p. 34.
4 *Flying*, June 1951.
5 *RAF Flying Review*, July 1957; FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, Vol. 1, No. 1 (1955); London *Illustrated News*, December 2, 1954.
6 Keyhoe, Donald E., *Flying Saucer Conspiracy* (Henry Holt, 1955), p. 259.
7 *Washington Post*, October 20, 1953.
8 Edwards, Frank, *Flying Saucers—Serious Business* (Lyle Stuart, 1966), p. 37.
9 Ibid., p. 38; *The UFO Evidence, op. cit.*, p. 36.
10 The *San Diego Union*, May 19, 1967, p. A8.
11 Edwards, Frank, *op. cit.*, p. 35; *Aviation Week*, July 13, 1953.
12 Opinions expressed by FAA Controllers R. Hinds and James R. Becker during interview and tour of facilities at Miramar ATC Center, April 12, 1968.
13 Statement of FAA Chief Controller W. Shaw of Miramar ATC Center, April 12, 1968.
14 Statement of Lt. Commander R. Stiles, base commander, Miramar Naval Station, April 13, 1968.
15 *Air Force Regulation* 200-2, "Intelligence Activities—Unidentified Flying Objects (UFO)," section 3 (a); Department of the Air Force, Washington, July 20, 1962.
16 Ibid., section 8.
17 Letter from Dr. J. Allen Hynek, April 18, 1968.
18 Ibid.
19 Ibid.

MAIL BAG

Correspondence is invited from our readers, but they are asked to keep their letters short. Unless letters give the sender's full name and address (not necessarily for publication) they cannot be considered. The Editor would like to remind correspondents that it is not always possible to acknowledge every letter personally, so he takes this opportunity of thanking all who write to him.

From Aimé Michel

Sir,—In his letter of February 16, 1968, Mr. Llewellyn emphasises the great similarity between a detail concerning the Valensole case and your *Fantasy or Truth?* in FSR Vol. 13, No. 4. And he adds: "A little too arranged."

A pertinent question. It is in fact evident that the facts can only be either *incoherent* (and thus suspected of being unreal) or *coherent* (and consequently suspected of being "arranged"). Faithful to my rule of *thinking of everything and believing nothing*, I accept this dilemma. One must always suspend judgement on every detail deriving solely from the eyewitness's testimony; but on the other hand, it is always interesting to discover, among details that are even suspect, general structures and, if possible, statistics. The details are allegations, the structures are facts (for example, the structures put forward by Gordon Creighton and Jacques Vallée in the same issue of the REVIEW).

As regards the question of knowing whether these structures are real or fabricated by liars, this is a classic problem in scientific methodology—when one does not know if an experiment is significant, or calculation precise, one does the experiment and the calculation.

Aimé Michel. July 11, 1968.

The Heflin Photographs

Sir,—In reply to the letter by Mr. Charles Gibbs-Smith, published in Vol. 14, No. 3 of the REVIEW, I would like to make certain observations from the Heflin photographs.

Examination of photographs 2 and 3 shows that in the latter, the UFO has a more northerly bearing (as viewed from the truck) than in the former. This means that the UFO reversed its direction of flight before photograph 3 was taken and not afterwards, as indicated by Heflin's sketch. In order to take the third photograph therefore, Heflin had to move either backwards or more likely sideways (to his right). This is clearly demonstrated by the apparent shift of the rear view mirror with respect to both the background and the foreground when photographs 2 and 3 are compared and explains why the image in the mirror changes.

As for photograph 4, I think it can be reasonably assumed that Heflin merely drove further up the road until he was opposite the smoke ring in the sky before taking this final picture and not over the fields as Mr. Gibbs-Smith assumes.

Stuart Ackley, Mary Street, Bristol 2.
July 11, 1968.

Censorship and UFOs

Sir,—In the March/April edition of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW Ivan Brandt writes: "Even if the death of one man on this earth was definitely known and proved to have been caused by an alien from outer space—an authenticated act of hostility beyond a shadow of a doubt—can anyone believe that the presses of the world wouldn't be ringing with such news?"

Mr. Brandt assumes the presses of the world can print what they like quite freely: commonsense tells me otherwise.

Accepting that most governments suppress as far as possible information on UFOs, is it logical that newspapers are permitted to print what they wish? The answer is obviously, no.

In our own country the "D" notice system would serve admirably for censoring individual cases. The Ministry would simply phone the newspaper, tell them it thinks publication of the story might endanger national security

(e.g. cause a major panic) and the presses would grind to a halt. Newspapers would, presumably, be allowed to publish certain aspects and thus, for example, some details would be produced in the local newspaper as complete omission there would make censorship even more obvious.

An example of this censorship may have taken place on Wednesday, April 10, 1968. BBC broadcasts carried a report originating from Jodrell Bank that signals from the Russian craft orbiting the moon had ceased when the craft circled the hidden face of the moon. This was obviously a significant piece of information as it lends weight to any theories about the hidden face of the moon being used as a base by UFOs. Yet I could only find vague mention of it in one newspaper and entire omission in the others.

I do not believe that the complete failure of newspapers in covering UFO incidents and news items like the last can be entirely voluntary.

If it is, then history will surely condemn their lack of sense of public duty

Duncan F. McGregor, Glasgow W.1., Scotland, April 20, 1968.

Out with it, Mr. Keel.

Sir,—There's one thing we who are attempting to solve the UFO enigma do not need, and that is more articles like John Keel's *A New Approach to UFO Witnesses*. FSR May/June 1968).

Mr. Keel, who earns his living by writing, creates more mystery than he solves when he slyly suggests: "The UFO phenomenon is based upon what is happening to people." However he never tells us what it is that *is* happening to people.

He suggests that suitable questions to ask UFO witnesses should include things like "what the witness had for breakfast, and what kind of phone calls he's been getting." Mr. Keel also suggests we "prod his memory about his childhood."

Does Mr. Keel come out and tell us what connection there is between one's breakfast, childhood & UFOs? Of course not! Mr. Keel, it seems, loves to create mysteries.

He then tells us that after questioning enough people along these lines, our "astonishment will turn to abject horror." Then, states Mr. Keel: "You'll throw all your books on astronomy and exobiology into the garbage can."

He talks like a man who knows something important, but what does he really say? He is just adding more mysteries and not solving any.

I call upon Mr. Keel publicly to state what he knows about these things which will cause us all "abject horror", and stop hinting around. I asked him this some time ago when he hinted at knowing "*the answer*", and he referred me to the Bible for "clues". At the time he suggested that Deros or Devils are behind it all. Now he refers us to the breakfast menu and our childhood. If the things which Mr. Keel hints at discovering are as important as he claims, why doesn't he stop playing guessing games and come right out and say what it is?

If he thinks that we are all the playthings of the Devil and the Earth is really Hell . . . come on out and say so. Some of us may not go along with this theory but at least it will be out in the open where we can all study it. We can't very well study something which he insists upon making a secret.

I heartily dislike unnecessary mysteries. We have enough already.

Ralph Rankow, Broadway, New York City, N.Y. 10001. July 22, 1968.

No "Men in Black"

Sir,—I am writing with reference to John Keel's article in FSR May/June 1968 entitled *A New Approach To UFO Witnesses*. It is entirely possible that he is most correct in his assertion that extensive area coverage and in-depth witness investigations are quite necessary in the solution of the fantastic mystery we face. Unfortunately few part-time seekers after the truth have the time and finances for this kind of effort. The writing-off of all the data learned in the past by Ufologists both great and small is of course a great error on Mr. Keel's part. Without their groundwork he might now find himself in danger of commital to some institution.

In 1966 and 1967 in a five county area here containing 75 witnesses who had seen 37 unidentified objects (mostly at low altitude, and four on or just above the ground—I keep only the most undeniable sightings) I did not have any manifestations of men in black, telephone warnings, etc. Possibly that only happens in real hot spots where the UFO division of the CIA feels a need of disruption. I do have two cases of intermittent poltergeist activity in farmhouses approximately a mile and a mile and a half respectively from the site of a near-landing of an orange flat bottomed domed object. However the activity began in 1960 and the near-landing came in 1966.

I agree with Mr. Keel's basic ideas for the most part, found his article most interesting, and hope you will carry more in the future.

Don Worley (Special Investigator, Coral and Jim Lorenzen's APRO, Southeastern Indiana area), Connersville, Indiana, U.S.A., July 15, 1968.

Reply to Dr. Kauffmann

Sir,—Dr. Kauffmann's report to FLYING SAUCER REVIEW (see *Mailbag* March/April 1968) on the Seventh International World Congress of UFO Investigators in Mainz (November 3-6 1967) is likely to give a totally false picture to the English-speaking readers of your highly esteemed journal.

The German Press is shockingly misinformed on the subject of UFOs. The reports in the illustrated magazines as well as the programme on Channel 2 of the German TV Service were so biased that numerous spontaneous protests were made to the various editors concerned.

It is an insult to the honour of all the speakers at the Congress that Dr. Kauffmann considers only Professor Oberth and himself—"a citizen of the USA, residing in Switzerland"—should be taken seriously.

It is a certain fact that the talks given by the 24 lecturers from the Congress participants of 23 countries and both hemispheres were *extremely well* received, and that only Dr. Kauffmann's remarks marred what was otherwise a fully justified success.

The distinguished audience had a feeling of confidence towards all the speakers, except only towards Dr. Kauffmann; such is the fact of the matter.

At this International Congress devoted to our subject of common study, not only were countless problems aired, but films and photographs were shown, extracts were read from the books of Frank Scully, Edward Ruppelt and Frank Edwards, and we also heard reports from American UFO investigators, the contents of which reports attracted very great attention in the USA and were widely disseminated. (See *Visitors from Space* in UFO-NACHRICHTEN Nos. 142 and 143).

Dr. Kauffmann could have given an objective report on the global importance of the *Mainz UFO Resolution* and *Proclamation* that were sent to Secretary-General U Thant and to the 131 member-states of the UNO. Also on the lectures by Colman von Keviczky, Director of ICUFON—New York, on the USAF's documentary film *The Truth About Flying Saucers*, on the exhibition (first ever in Europe) of UFO photographs, on the showcases of international books and periodicals on UFOs, the countless interviews, the statements to the press, the radio and TV transmissions, the special UFO franking-stamp—the first time ever—of the German Federal Post Office. *That* would have served the cause of truth and would have interested the readers of FSR.

Witnesses in testimony of this are the approximately 2,700 people who participated during the four days of the Congress: investigators, scientists, reporters, plus visitors from the following: Argentina, Belgium, Berlin, German Federal Republic, Denmark, England, France, Finland, Holland, Italy, Yugoslavia, Luxemburg, Norway, Austria, Rumania, Sweden, Switzerland, Spain, Hungary, Venezuela and the USA (California—New York—Virginia).

Furthermore, the Guests of Honour: Dr. Jur. W. Mueller of Wiesbaden, former Oberbürgermeister of Weimar, and Honorary President of the German Goethe Society; Bürgermeister Karl Delorme, representing Oberbürgermeister Jockel Fuchs of Mainz; Director Jedzini, President of the German branch of Federal Union, Frankfurt; Honorary Member of DUIST, Professor Dr. h.c. Hermann Oberth, our principal lecturer; Dr. F. E. Stranges, LL.D. Ph.D.; Miss Lynn Catoe, Science Reference Specialist and Senior Bibliographer of the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.; and Dr. Ricciotti Lazzero from Italy. All these were among the prominent participants of this Congress which was unique for Europe and for the whole world.

Karl L. Veit, President, Director of the German UFO/IFO Studiengemeinschaft (DUIST) E.V., July 8, 1968. (translated from the German by G. Creighton).

(*continued from page* 16)

published a restricted booklet showing how the UFOs performed on radar on the famous night of August 13, 1952 around Washington, D.C. Other radar sightings mentioned by Edwards were (1) August, 1965. The Air Force radar base on the Keewenaw Peninsula reported watching a flight of UFOs on radar over Lake Superior, and (2) In May, 1964 officials at Holloman Air Force Base which guards White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico, reported that their radar had been tracking a UFO for two days, at intervals.

Please, don't let any spokesman for the authorities tell you UFOs have never been tracked on radar! It simply isn't true.

Sources:

[1] *Flying Saucers—Here and Now!* by Frank Edwards.
[2] *The Truth about Flying Saucers*, by Aimé Michel.
[3] *The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects*, by Edward J. Ruppelt.

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A NEW SOUTH AMERICAN "WAVE"

By GORDON CREIGHTON

THE astonishing reports from Chascomús and Córdoba—both towns in Argentina—are strong meat indeed. But they are only the "peak" features of a truly extraordinary situation now developing, which looks likely to surpass both in quantity of reports and in general weirdness, the "bumper" South American year of 1965. I give below in outline the principal reports that have recently come to FLYING SAUCER REVIEW from its Argentine representative, Señor Oscar A. Galíndez of Córdoba, from Señor Guillermo J. Gainza Paz in Buenos Aires, from Mr. Nigel Rimes in São Paulo, from Senhor Jáder U. Pereira in Pôrto Alegre, and from Dr. Walter Buhler in Rio de Janeiro. To all these gentlemen we express our hearty thanks for the mass of newspaper reports received from them.

1. Punta Arenas, near Magellan Strait, in the far southern part of Chile, June 4, 1968. (As usual the "wave" starts in Tierra del Fuego—close to Antarctica—and moves north.)

At 9.17 p.m. on June 4, two veteran pilots of Argentine Air Lines, and many of their 18 passengers, saw a shining reddish cylinder flying at an estimated height of from 1,800 to 2,000 metres—roughly twice the height of their own aircraft. The UFO was in sight for five minutes and, on landing at the Chilean airport of Chavunco a little later, they learnt that it had been seen from there and had also been photographed. In a press interview (*La Razón*, Buenos Aires, June 8) the senior pilot, Comandante Humberto Raúl Guardabassi, refused, as did his co-pilot, to budge from the view that they had seen a UFO. Guardabassi spoke of his absolute belief in the events now occurring, including the Chascomús teleportation, and concluded: "powerful interests are opposed to the divulging of the facts."

2. Buenos Aires, Argentina. *La Razón* of June 4 and the *Correio do Povo* (published in Pôrto Alegre, Southern Brazil) of June 11, gave details of an extraordinary recent happening to the well-known Argentine painter and sculptor Benjamin Solari Parravicini. This gentleman claimed that some time after midnight (precise date not given) he was walking home from the theatre in Buenos Aires, a copy of the programme in his hand. The night was foggy, he tells us, and in view of the "fog" or "mist" mentioned in teleportation cases we should take careful note of this point. The streets hereabouts were deserted.

Arriving at the corner of Avenida Belgrano and Avenida 9 de Julio, Parravicini was suddenly confronted by what he took at first to be a madman, a fair-skinned Nordic type of man, "whose eyes were so light in colour that it looked as though he were blind." This individual detained him and addressed him in an unintelligible guttural language, but his manner was "kindly and even gentle." Looking upwards, on this man's instructions, Parravicini then beheld through the "fog", and at a distance of only about 50 metres, close to the tower building of the Argentine Ministry of Public Works, an extraordinary aerial ship, with no lights.

Parravicini was overcome by dizziness, and when he recovered he found himself along with three other individuals inside the machine, which was in flight. One of these people, very handsome, was questioning him in a language which was unintelligible to him and yet his mind understood, or seemed to understand, the thoughts of the alien being. In other words, as Parravicini said, it was a case of direct telepathic communication.

The alien told him not to be alarmed; they would merely take him for one trip around the Earth and would then put him down again at the precise spot where they had taken him aboard. A few minutes later, Parravicini found himself observing surface features of what he recognised as Japan, and then France, and then Chile. And when he had returned, as he said, from this "dream", he found himself back on the corner of Avenida Belgrano and Avenida 9 de Julio—and there on the pavement nearby was his theatre programme which had fallen from his hand before the experience . . . Parravicini, for many years director of the Art Gallery owned by the Banco Municipal, concluded by saying that the alien beings had now contacted him several times. He said they told him that they were watching and patrolling our planet to see that no catastrophe befalls it.

Commenting upon this case, in a lengthy interview in *La Razón* (June 4), Professor Alejandro Erú, a member of the faculty of Humanities at the University of La Plata and secretary of the Argentine College of Parapsychology, told this paper that Parravicini's case was only one of a number of "contact" and "teleportation" cases that the College has on its files. Professor Erú mentioned specifically the cases of the Argentine businessman who was instantly teleported from Bahía Blanca to Salta in 1959 (see my article *Teleportations* in FSR, March/April 1965) and of the Brazilian Professor, João de Freitas Guimarães (see THE HUMANOIDS, Latin American case 19, and FSR for November/December 1957 and September/October 1961).

3. Colón, Uruguay. According to *La Razón*, Buenos Aires, of June 15, four people at Colón near Montevideo saw two saucers fly over on the evening of June 14, travelling very fast and headed towards the east.

4. Buenos Aires, and vicinity, June 15. According to a France-Presse report in the Brazilian *Correio do Povo* (Pôrto Alegre) of June 20, the passage of a UFO near Buenos Aires recently had caused marked disturbance of the Earth's magnetic field. Radios, clocks and other domestic electrical equipment were stopped, and the needles of compasses were reversed.

Residents of the Buenos Aires suburbs of Boulogny and San Martín said that they saw a saucer land during the night of June 15-16. A railway worker named Juan Carlos Barros said that the passage of the UFO caused the roof of his house to collapse. According to eye-witness reports received by several police stations, the manoeuvres of the saucer "were accompanied by a continuous noise of thunder and by a strange smell and a strange light."

5. El Choro, Bolivia, May 29, June 16, June 19. *La Nación* (Buenos Aires) of June 28 published a Reuter report of the 27th from Oruro in Bolivia. It stated that Bolivian Police authorities had revealed that unidentified flying objects had recently been seen on three occasions in the vicinity of El Choro, a town in the Departamento of Oruro (some 200 km. south of La Paz).

The sightings were on May 29, June

16 and June 19, and all at late hours of the night, said Germán Rocha, Chief of the Provincial Police, who was himself a witness, along with Police Major Nicéforo León. In their own particular sighting, they were amazed to behold a round object, with a most vivid blue light, which object landed and left behind it a strange and powerful odour. The surrounding grass and shrubs were burnt by it.

The report relating to June 19 said that, at a place called Cabrería, near Choro, a settler named Rómulo Velasco, aged 25, saw a bright object land and from it there emerged a strange "tall slim being" who tried to approach him, but Velasco fainted.

6. Catamarca, Argentina. According to the *Correio do Povo* (Pôrto Alegre, Brazil) of June 22, the pilot of a light aeroplane (his name was Jorge Scassa) was at a height of about 200 metres or so, at a place some 25 miles from Catamarca (in the Andes, north-west of Córdoba) on June 18, when he saw what he at first took to be a "grey cloud", but which he soon saw was a dish-shaped object in rapid flight. He mentioned that it was not rotating. He called the Catamarca airport, but they did not answer. He then sent out a general message, which was picked up by an aircraft of Argentine Air Lines, which in turn notified the control towers at Córdoba and Catamarca. The personnel of the tower at Córdoba later confirmed that they had lost contact with Scassa's plane.

7. *Correio do Povo* of June 22 also reported that, on the same night, i.e. June 18, an Argentine taxidriver was driving along with three passengers when suddenly the engine stopped and he was unable to re-start it. Then he and the passengers noticed a strange object hanging stationary beside the road and at a small distance above the ground. Then the object rose into the sky and vanished. Various telephone calls to police during the same night mentioned an unknown object seen flying over the region. (The paper does not quote the name of the area in Argentina.)

8. Miramar. According to the same paper, a chauffeur at Miramar (450 km. due south of Buenos Aires, and near Mar del Plata) was cycling home one night recently when he found himself confronted by a mysterious object stationed right on the road. The chaffeur, named Oscar Vivas, aged 24, said it was elliptical in shape and very large. The upper portion of it was rotating rapidly, and the object was only about half a metre from the ground. From the lower part there came, "as though supporting it", a vivid beam of light. On receiving this report from Vivas, "a man of excellent reputation who does not drink", the police went to the spot and found that the soil was scorched.

9. *Correio do Povo* of July 3 reported that at 9.40 a.m. on June 25, Senhor Edson Elpo, manager of the Radional installations at Florianópolis on the island of Santa Catarina off the coast of southern Brazil, with one of his workmen, watched a UFO for 40 minutes. The object, circular and domed, arrived from the south, flying very slowly. Above the island it turned west and headed inland. Both observers, with their long experience of observing aircraft, felt that its apparent size was "comparable with that of a Boeing aircraft flying at 3,000 metres."

On June 27, again at 9.40 a.m., the two men saw two more objects, flying side by side and coming over from the east, very fast. Their colour was "dull leaden." The two UFOs changed course again in precisely the same area over Santa Catarina Island, and vanished towards the north after being in sight for only four minutes.

Similar objects were again seen, at the same time on the following day, June 28, by the same two observers and by many other people.

10. Rosario and vicinity, Argentina. According to the Buenos Aires paper *La Crónica* (July 4) flying saucer reports were now daily affairs in Rosario, and the witnesses, usually serious steady sort of folk, unlikely to be avid for publicity.

At 10.45 a.m. on June 25, José Juan Racoski, an employee of the Carmal Chemical Plant at San Lorenzo, near Rosario, was leaning on a rail at the plant, above the gorge of the River Paraná, when suddenly something unknown dazzled and paralysed him. He was found by workmates unconscious, grasping a torch in his left hand. Coming to his senses half an hour later, he shouted in terror: "I can't see a thing!" His eyes were in fact bulging and badly swollen and his skin had turned red. It took him three days to recover. Speaking of his experience, he said: "It was a flying saucer that bedazzled me. Then I lost consciousness."

Covering the case in greater detail, the Buenos Aires *La Razón* (also of July 4), mentions that the Carmal Chemical Works are situated in Bouchard, a suburb of San Lorenzo, and at a distance of 1 km. from National Highway No. 1. The account continues: "It was at about 10.45 a.m., when the plant's electrician Jorge Ribles noticed that the engines driving the fermentation machinery and the grinding mills were at a standstill and the whole surroundings were lit up with an intense reddish light. He checked, but could find no mechanical faults or damage in the electrical machinery.

"Another employee, José Juan Racoski, aged 52, who lives in Calle Fray Luis Beltrán and has worked at the Carmal Chemical Plant for many years, had a strange experience. He states that he was leaning on a rail checking the level of a vat, when suddenly he was enveloped in a vivid light that dazzled and paralysed him. His strength ebbed away and he fell unconscious. Fellow workers ran to his aid and it was a while before he recovered consciousness, and when he did so, it was to find that for some time he was without the power of sight. His mates say moreover that his body turned a reddish colour and his eyes were mis-shapen and seemed to be about to leap from their sockets.

"It was three days before Racoski could move his paralysed left arm. He continued however to suffer from extreme nervousness and severe pains all over the body as though he had been badly beaten with a cudgel.

"Nobody can explain this strange affair. Racoski is considered a decent, serious fellow, not given to believing in phenomena of this sort. He is a man of vigorous build and constitution, and not a man easy to affect.

"It is reported that personnel at the Duperial Factory and at the Petroquímica Plant (situated in Bella Vista, a suburb of San Martín) as well as residents of the nearby district of Ricardone, have also seen flying saucers."

11. Santa Fé, Argentina, June 27. *La Nación* (Buenos Aires) of June 28 reported that at 6.50 a.m. on the previous day, a worker named Luis Gulicovich was engaged in loading cases on to a truck in front of his place of employment, a soft drinks plant on Calle Ayacucho in Santa Fé (north of Rosario). Looking up suddenly, he beheld an object, shaped like a silver dish and emitting flashes of red flame around its rim. It was at some distance, apparently level with the top of the local LT 3 radio transmitting tower, and was moving towards Alvear. In fear and astonishment he called his workmates and four of them also saw it. All five witnesses told the press that they thought the object definitely far bigger than an aeroplane, and described it as an inverted hollow silver plate, flying very slowly at first, and then accelerating and vanishing at great speed. It had a bright light that flashed intermittently.

12. Laguna Paiva, N.E. of Santa Fé, Argentina, June 23. According to the Buenos Aires *La Nación* (June 28) two young women students, Beatriz

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Fernández and Elda Paredes, were visiting a friend in the suburb of Villa Rosario, at Laguna Paiva, when they heard a humming noise and, looking towards the west at an elevation angle of 45 degrees, they saw a strange object flying slowly on a North-South course. It was shaped like a spinning-top with a flattened base, and flashes of light were coming from the under part of it. On the upper part, which was rotating, there were beams of light directed downwards towards the ground. The object was visible for about one minute before accelerating sharply and vanishing.

13. Mar del Plata, Argentina, June 28. According to *La Razón* of July 2, an eminent lawyer of Mar del Plata, his wife, herself a professor, his daughter, and various other people, all saw a UFO stationary over an open piece of terrain near their home at El Sosniego, 15 km. from Mar del Plata, on June 28. Arriving at the house, the lawyer, Dr. Marcelo Aníbal Betnaza, found the whole family observing the object. Getting out his binoculars he saw that it was shaped "like a mushroom or a spinning-top." Stationary, not far from the ground, it was emitting flashes of light that changed colour constantly. From the cupola came a steady vivid green light, while from below it was emitting red and yellow flashes that were constantly changing.

After a while, the saucer began to climb, halted when observed at an angle of approximately 25 degrees, then dropped again abruptly. It also performed wobbling movements and other movements which, as the lawyer said, "would be regarded as signs of intelligent control."

Dr. Betnaza and his family had driven in their car to a point estimated to be about 1,000 metres from the "craft", and thought it prudent to observe from there without approaching more closely. His wife, professor of Geography at an important local college, had seen the same type of craft, behaving in the same manner, the previous day, and the paper adds that a man named Raúl Frías of Miramar had recently seen precisely the same type of object too.

14. Córdoba, Argentina. According to the *Correio do Povo* (Pôrto Alegre, southern Brazil) for July 3, quoting an Agence France-Presse report of July 2 from Buenos Aires, some children at Córdoba recently saw two "Martians" emerge from a flying saucer.

The children, aged 12, 11 and 10 respectively, said the beings came out of an egg-shaped craft, wore luminous

KEY

1. Punta Arenas, Chile
2. Buenos Aires
3. Colón
4. Oruro
5. Catamarca
6. Miramar
7. Island of Santa Catarina
8. Rosario
9. Santa Fé
10. Laguna Paiva
11. Mar del Plata
12. Córdoba
13. Corrientes
14. Salta
15. Sierra Chica
16. Quilmes

clothing, and "were holding hands, just like two newly married people." After walking around their machine a few times, the "Martians" got in again and the craft flew away at a terrific speed.

The children told their parents. The latter believed them sufficiently to inform the police authorities, who at once launched an investigation.

15. Province of Corrientes, Argentina, June 29. The Buenos Aires daily *La Crónica* of July 4 reported that on the night of June 29, three men named Eduardo Sánchez Aguilar, Pablo Pastor Ortega and Damián Vega, were driving in a car along National Highway No. 5 in the district of San Luis del Palmar in Corrientes Province (north of Buenos Aires), when they saw a circular flattened object that emitted an intensely bright orange light. At one moment the object seemed to approach dangerously close to them, so they turned out their lights. As the UFO passed near, the car was shaken by a most powerful vibration and the gears went into reverse.

16. Ricardone, suburb of Rosario, Argentina, July 1. According to the Buenos Aires daily *La Razón* of July 4, the district of Rosario and neighbouring areas of Ricardone and San Lorenzo were all agog with stories of flying saucers, apparitions of weird and strange beings, "and even incomprehensible phenomena that have caused fear and commotion . . . Although no official reports have been lodged with the police, the general talk among the public indicates that in these past few days many folk have seen luminous objects flying through the skies above San Lorenzo, and have also seen extraterrestrial beings."

The paper goes on to describe how, at 4 a.m. on July 1, a 17-year-old youth named Raúl Salcedo was returning home from a dance in Ricardone when, just before reaching his home, he met two strange beings at the corner where Calle Hipólito Yrigoyen crosses Calle San Juan. The beings were almost three metres high. The youth "felt himself drawn towards them by the powerful magnetism irradiated by them, which wellnigh immobilised him."

Finally, he managed to break loose from his difficult situation and fled in terror. Just before reaching home he ran into his father and some friends at a spot two blocks further on, but was too frightened to stop and rushed on home past them.

17. San Lorenzo, near Rosario, Argentina. July 2. According to the Buenos Aires dailies *La Crónica* and *La Razón* of July 4, a married woman named Señora Eva de Perea of 1127 Avenida San Martín, San Lorenzo, saw a flying saucer moving at moderate speed across the sky. It was emitting red flashes and flying on an inclined plane as if about to land, with an unsteady wobble. She called her husband and daughters and a neighbour, Señor Victorio Canopreso, and they all saw it.

18. Salta, Argentina, July 2. *La Crónica* (Buenos Aires) for July 4 carried a report from Salta about a strange phenomenon seen by no fewer than fifteen people in the Cófico district, near a mountain known as the "Peak of February 20." After much animated discussion, many residents of Salta had decided that it was all too far-fetched to be true when they were jolted by yet another fantastic report. It seems that, at 8.15 on July 2, near the Sporting Club in Salta, a boy named Sola suddenly saw the same bright object that the others had seen, above the same peak. At the same time the boy beheld, "at only a few metres distance from him, a strange being about 2·10m. in height, hanging suspended in the air, his body emitting a strange luminosity."

This being suddenly spun round like a top, his body remaining otherwise quite motionless. Then he began to rise into the air, and finally vanished above the Peak of February 20. Young Sola stood there dumbfounded, unable to believe his eyes, and then headed for the nearest police station hoping to find somebody there who would believe him.

Meanwhile fresh reports had reached the Salta police from people who said they had seen either craft or strange beings. In one case the witnesses—three of them—were themselves policemen, who had seen a UFO over the district of El Portezuelo which is on the outskirts of Salta, on the road to Tucumán. Meanwhile, the people of Salta are watching the Andean peaks more closely than ever.

NOW, THE REMARKABLE AFFAIR OF OSCAR IRIART . . .

19. Sierra Chica, near Olavarría, Province of Buenos Aires, Argentina, July 2. The Buenos Aires daily *La Razón* reported in its issue for July 4 one of the most fantastic cases of all. The farmer Heriberto Antonio Iriart, aged 51, runs a farm of some 72 hectares near the town of Sierra Chica.

Shortly before 11.30 a.m. on Tuesday, July 2, his 15-year-old son Oscar Heriberto Iriart was out riding his horse. When in the vicinity of a wire fence, he noticed two individuals who were making signs urging him to approach.

Oscar, a bright lad, considered intelligent and serious by his teachers, has already taken a diploma in Accountancy.

Thinking the two men might be bird-hunters, he rode over to them. He found that they were more or less about his own height (1 m. 70 cm.), with white hair, short, or very little of it, and wearing shirts or clothing of a red colour. "Apart from the constant unblinking way in which they gazed fixedly at me with their deep-set eyes, they might have been just any ordinary men such as we see every day here in Sierra Chica," the boy told the press.

Apart, too, from one other odd thing. **Their legs were semi-transparent.** The boy noticed that he could see through to the grass behind them.

The following dialogue ensued:

Visitor: "You are going to know the world!"

Boy: "Yes, of course—when I have money enough."

Visitor: "No. We will take you. We cannot take you now, as we have a big load . . ."

The men showed him a machine standing in the muddy drainage ditch between the wire fence and the road. The boy described it as elliptical in shape, with three landing legs, "one of them behind the other two," the diameter of the whole thing being about 2 metres and its height about 60 cm. The length of the legs was about 50 cm. The machine was of a silvery colour and had landed near a culvert in the ditch.

After this exchange of conversation, in what the boy thought was Spanish, since he understood them perfectly (though of course telepathy is a possible alternative), one of the two men put a hand into his clothing and extracted what appeared to be an ordinary envelope. This he handed to the boy, saying it was a message for him. He told the boy to dip it into a nearby puddle of water. Oscar, who by now had lost his initial nervousness, went to the puddle and did so, plunging the envelope and both hands into it. When he withdrew them, he found to his great astonishment that hands and envelope were entirely dry.

He now noticed that the envelope contained a message. Written in a crude hand resembling that of a small child that has not yet even commenced primary school, it read, in Spanish: "You are going to know the world. F. Saucer." (Uste va a conocer el Mundo. P. Volador.) The spelling was not even correct, for the final *d* was missing from the word *usted* (you).

They then climbed on to the

machine, lifted the top and got in, and so soon as it was closed the machine took off vertically at great speed, with flashes of light, and almost instantaneously it was just a tiny spot in the sky and then was gone.

Feeling "as though he had been asleep", Oscar now ran over to his horse. But fear was now to begin flooding into him. For the horse was paralysed, and could not move, and so was his dog. It was some few minutes before the animals could move freely again. Then he mounted and fled in utter terror towards the house, distant no more than half a mile. Some people who saw this ride thought he must have taken leave of his senses, so wild did both rider and steed appear.

The family were profoundly disturbed by the strange bulging and disoriented condition of the boy's eyes, which looked, as one of the papers said, "as though he really were just emerging from a hypnotic state or as though he had been terrified by the vision he had seen."

Accompanied by neighbours, the family ran to the spot where Oscar said the machine had stood and there, to their great astonishment (for the envelope and the message had struck nobody as convincing) they found three holes, each some 12 cm. deep, and forming a perfect isosceles triangle, the base side measuring 2 metres and the other two sides 1·58 metres each. So perfect were the measurements of the sides and the angles that anybody wishing to fake the story would have had quite a task with stakes and string and setsquare to get such exact results.

In the afternoon, after military personnel from the Garrison at Olavarría had called to take away soil samples for analysis, the boy's father went to report to Sergeant Raúl Coronel, the police official in charge at Sierra Chica. Regarding the story as too ridiculous for words, the latter refused to take any notice or to initiate any official action—an attitude that was soon to change sharply, as we shall see.

At the Sierra Chica Social Club that evening, there was much celebration over a recent football triumph over local rivals, but inevitably the story of Oscar Iriart was soon a subject of vigorous argument too. And among the leading local personalities at the Club who would not hear of flying saucers, there were of course our friend Sergeant Raúl Coronel of the Police, and a group of fellow-sceptics. These were the butcher Carlos Marinángeli, his brother José Luis, an administrative official in the local convict colony, Hugo Rodriguez, a mechanic, and Walter Vaccaro.

At about 11.15 p.m. these five bold and convivial sceptics set out for the landing site, Police-Sergeant Raúl Coronel being careful to take with him a powerful electric torch. Arrived at the site, they quickly concluded that the holes were faked, and they were busily cracking snide jokes about flying saucers when suddenly butcher Marinángeli yelled in alarm: "Look out! A light is coming in our direction!"

Zigzagging very slowly towards them across the meadow, at a height of only a few metres from the ground, was this luminous something, and it was headed right for where they stood, the spot where allegedly a flying saucer had landed almost exactly 12 hours before. In panic the five bold sceptics threw themselves to the ground. As the UFO passed over them Police-Sergeant Raúl Coronel drew his regulation revolver and was about to shoot, but the butcher Marinángeli prudently and firmly restrained him. The UFO continued its zigzagging course across the field, and then, gathering speed, it climbed straight up and was gone.

Sergeant Raúl Coronel and Butcher Marinángeli and their friends, all of whom were convinced a few minutes before that all this talk of flying saucers "was just a load of nonsense due to seeing too many queer things on TV", were now miraculously converted into the most enthusiastic of UFO buffs. Questioned by his Police superiors at Azul and by reporters, Sergeant Coronel and his friends could only murmur repeatedly: "Sí, sí, Señores! The flying saucers **do** exist!"

Sergeant Coronel was transferred, for his pains, to Azul, where his superiors gave him a wigging for having made statements to the press about UFOs without having submitted any official report on the case to them first. As *La Razón* puts it: "Sergeant Coronel's fervent affirmation, as of now, that **UFOs do exist,** constitutes a ground for some perplexity on the part of his superiors, for he has always been noted for his seriousness and his sense of responsibility."

In the meantime, the fair, blue-eyed lad Oscar Heriberto Iriart sticks to his story, and his mother, Doña Cesaria Donatti de Iriart, cries, between sobs: "He has been threatened, you understand! Those horrible men have said they will come back to get him!" The highly respected Creole family of the Iriarts pass their days in perplexity, and the whole surrounding district of Olavarría and Sierra Chica is in an uproar. Further night-vigils by newspapermen and local stalwarts, supported by copious barbecues and powerful alcoholic draughts against the "night air", have failed to draw the UFO back to the spot. The Police continue to investigate and to take the case seriously, although everyone is puzzled by the crudely written "message" and the perfectly ordinary terrestrial envelope and notepaper.

Oscar Iriart remains firmly convinced of the reality of his experience and will not budge from his story. Enquiries have revealed that he does not read science-fiction, and has never displayed the slightest interest whatsoever in anything to do with "Flying Saucers." He prefers tinkering with the engine of one of his father's old cars.

Decline In UFO Sightings Predicted by a Reader

UFO activity is at a low ebb this year according to an article in the *New York Times* by Walter Sullivan. The Air Force (Project Blue Book) and NICAP (the largest civilian UFO group) are given as authorities for that statement.

I predict that UFO sightings will remain at a relatively low level in the future, and that we shall never again see the great flaps which characterised 1947, 1952 and those of recent years. However, people have been seeing things in the sky since time immemorial and there will always be a few sightings – the usual hoaxes, misidentification of conventional objects, as well as plasma-UFOs.

My prediction is based on extensive research which I have been conducting over the years. Accordingly, I am not inclined to reveal the facts behind my prediction. At any rate, I believe I am one of the first to call attention to the turn in UFO sighting reports.

F. D. Marrow, RD No. 1, Flemington, N.J. 08822, U.S.A. July 23, 1968

[*No Comment!—EDITOR*]

20. *La Razón*, Buenos Aires, for July 4 had a report that, in a press-conference held in Rosario, and devoted principally to other matters, Admiral Benigno Varela, Commander-in-Chief of the Argentine Navy, had referred to his Service's share in the work of investigating UFOs. He explained that all the Navy does is to keep a register of serious reports received. He concluded: "The Argentine Navy reported on one occasion—as did also the Chilean and British bases in Antarctica—that five lights had been seen in Antarctica, all flying in the same direction. This is a phenomenon that so far has not been explained—which does not necessarily mean that they are "Flying Saucers." There are many, many phenomena that up till now still remain unexplained."

21. Quilmes, Argentina, July 3. *La Crónica* (Buenos Aires) for July 4 reported that a woman claimed to have been abducted by a flying saucer. Señora Alejandra Martínez de Pascucci, of 276 Calle Alvear, Quilmes, told the representative of this paper:

"It was 11.30 last night, and I was just coming home when, reaching the corner of Calle Alvear with Calle Saavedra, I quickened my pace, as I am always afraid of passing that corner which is a big open area that has not been built up. At that precise moment, I felt some invisible force pressing down upon me, absorbing me. Seized with terror, I wanted to shout, but could not. Despite my fear, I did not lose consciousness. Suddenly, I found myself in an enclosed space in which there was nothing else except myself and two men dressed in clothing that looked metallic and that gave off a lot of light, as did their shoes and their helmets, which revealed the part where the hair begins and showed their whole faces.

"One of them, very tall, was over 2 metres. The other one was a bit shorter. They looked at me, talking together the while in an unintelligible language. The heat inside the enclosed space was unbearable. It seemed as though we were in an oven. The shorter of the two men pressed a button, and I felt the machine begin to move. The machine was round and had small red and green windows. It could hold four or five people. After a while, in just the same way as I had entered it, I descended from it, it having landed very smoothly. I thought we had landed on Mars, but no! After a few moments I perceived that we were back on our planet, opposite a cemetery. A taxi came by, and he brought me home, free of charge. I'll never forget this experience!"

Comment

From all the foregoing items it should be clear that something very odd is again happening to many people in the southern part of South America. Whether all these reports are fact, or are due to some mysterious form of hypnosis (see case 19) or hallucination or brainwashing, or to some strange new mental disease or poisoning, they are deserving of our most careful attention and study. *Why, for example (see cases* 2, 16, *and* 21), *have alien beings now taken to accosting terrestrials at crossroads?* Is this perhaps why, in myth and legend, a certain aura of danger or of the macabre seems to cling to crossroads?

Note too (cases 10 and 19) the bulging, protuberant or swollen eyes of the victims of these strange mishaps. Readers will be able to recall other cases in the literature of our subject.

Be it noted too that, in addition to the bizarre encounters at crossroads, the "trips in saucers", and so forth, the accounts of faintings and dizziness and loss of consciousness are on the increase. In a despatch sent to the *New York Times* on July 13 by their correspondent in Buenos Aires, Malcolm W. Browne, this correspondent naturally had to try to make fun of the whole business, his piece being entitled *UFOs Add Spice To Life Of Latins*. But he had to admit that a great many people in Argentina and Chile are deeply worried by what is happening, and he even quoted an Argentine Government official as having said: "I have no doubt that flying saucers have arrived here. I worry about what they're up to. I just can't understand why they have picked on Argentina." And Browne admitted that, since the news about the Chascomús teleportation leaked out to the press, "young women in Buenos Aires and elsewhere have been declining dinner invitations that would mean going home alone."

As regards the evidence for a northward-moving "wave-front", most readers are no doubt familiar with the theory that the aliens (*extraterrestrials* on this hypothesis, of course) slip into our Earth's atmosphere through the "gaps" above our Poles where, as our scientists are understood to have discovered, the Van Allen radiation belts are either absent altogether or reduced in intensity. On such a hypothesis—and there seem to be strong grounds in favour of it—it is easy to perceive that the vast and remote continent of Antarctica would provide a uniquely useful staging and marshalling area for the interlopers, and also that the Antarctic "gap" in the radiation belts might be thought to be far more attractive to visitors than the corresponding "gap" over the North Pole, which leads to no such vast ice-cap overlying terra firma, and has also the disadvantage that it lies far too near to the main concentrations of the technologically advanced races of Earthlings which are principally upon the land-masses of the Northern Hemisphere.

Dr. Jacques Vallée has already drawn attention to the regularity with which these "waves" build up, via South America, from Antarctica, during the months of June and July, and no doubt Australia's and New Zealand's many UFO sightings are also to be explained in this way. It now remains to be seen whether we are in for something different and spectacular—indeed crucial—this year.

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THE ELECTRONIC UFO DETECTOR

By Colin McCarthy

NOW that the "McCarthy UFO Detector" is out of production, and a detection network has been set up in the UK, many FSR readers have asked to see the circuit diagram printed in detail.

The Detector is different from the "compass-needle" type, in that it doesn't rely on mechanical movement, which introduces inertia, thereby lowering overall sensitivity. In place of the compass needle, a 10,000 ohm coil is wound on a soft iron former. This coil is connected to the high impedance input of a 5-transistor amplifier, having a gain of approximately 40 db. The output load of this amplifier is a high speed 50 ohm relay, the contacts of which, on operation, "self lock" the relay "on", and also supply current to operate a buzzer alarm.

The amplifier is fully stabilised and regulated by a Zener diode in the power supply.

Theory of Operation

When a small pulsing or moving magnetic field cuts the pickup coil, a minute voltage is produced. This voltage is amplified thousands of times until it generates enough current through the relay to cause it to "lock-up", thus sounding the alarm. To reset the Detector, a break-type contact button is incorporated. When pressed, this control open-circuits the supply to the relay; the circuit returns to stand-by, and the buzzer stops.

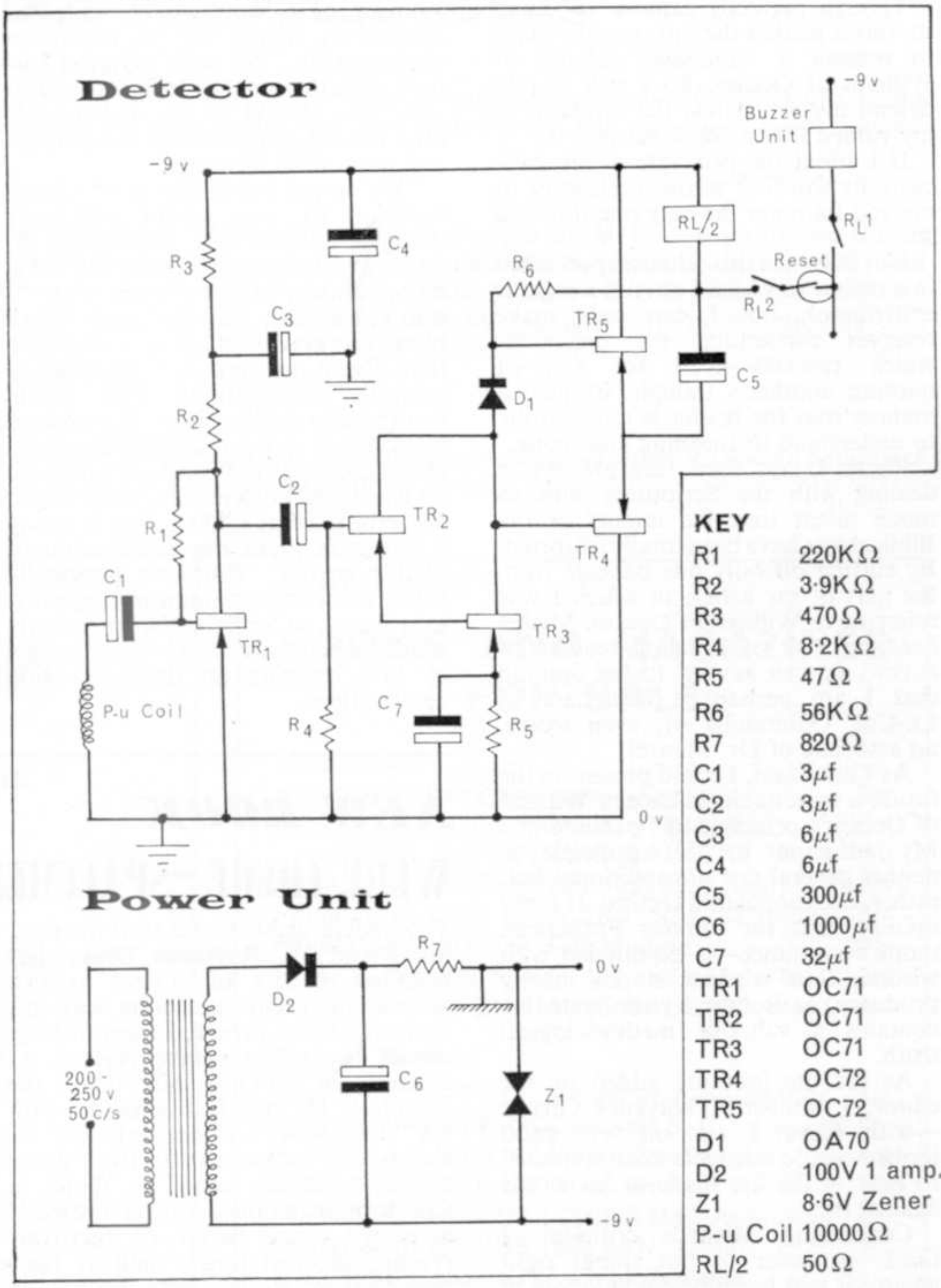
Tests have shown that a field strength of approximately 1 gauss moving at 1 cm/sec. is sufficient to pulse the Detector "on". If measurements which have been made on the presumed pulsing magnetic fields of UFOs are correct, the Detector should trigger at a slant range of approximately 1 to 3 miles for a small craft, and 5 to 10 miles on larger types. Several reports have reached me of the Detector triggering, and UFOs being seen within the above slant range figures. However many more reports are needed before serious research can really begin.

The Detector is not affected by normal changes in pressure and temperature. But large temperature variations could destroy the transistors. Electrical interference from passing cars will not trigger the device, unless the coil is within 6 inches to 1 foot of the electrical system. Passing aircraft and satellites cannot affect the Detector.

To test the sensitivity of the device, rotate or move the pick-up coil quickly through the Earth's magnetic field. The buzzer should sound. As a further test, move a small magnet about 3 to 6 inches from the coil. Triggering should be achieved on the first pass of the magnet.

The REVIEW would be happy to receive the name, address and phone number of any reader who has either constructed or bought a Detector (compass-needle or electronic type) and would like to join the U.K. detector network.

Circuit Diagram of McCarthy Magnetic Flux Detector



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ON THE THEME OF "A NOTE ON WILLIAM OF OCCAM" BY AIMÉ MICHEL

By René Fouéré

I HAVE read with the utmost interest the learned and brilliant text in which Aimé Michel attacks William of Occam, and also myself in a friendly way.

Though perfectly capable of doing so, this is neither the time nor the place to present a *reasonable* defence of William of Occam. So I will merely defend myself against the criticism of my valued friend Aimé Michel.

If I admit the principle of his criticism, its wording seems unpleasant to me and I am not the only one thinking so.

Not only was this criticism published in a review to which I am not a regular contributor, but I can only make reserves concerning the behaviour which consists—even for fun—of quoting another's thought in such a manner that the reader is unable fully to understand its meaning and scope.

Pierre Louys used this process in dealing with the Scriptures with so much talent that the intents of the Biblical text have been totally distorted. By cutting off only one passage from the part of my article in which I was referring to William of Occam, Michel runs the risk of bringing readers of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW to the opinion that I am perhaps a lieutenant of Lt.-Col. Quintanilla or, even worse, an associate of Dr. Menzel!

As I have said, I could present in the future a reasonable defence of William of Occam's principle of "parsimony". My adhesion to this principle is neither general nor unconditional but, rather, occasional and tactical. It is my opinion that the famous Franciscan monk's utterance—if expounded with wisdom (but wisdom is not merely prudence, as Bulwer Lytton stated)—contains a valuable methodological truth.

As for the footnote added by the editor, I wonder if Waveney Girvan —with whom I was on very good terms—would not have been surprised to hear of the use made of his words against me.

Concerning Michel's criticism, I think—in order to put things right again—it will be sufficient to quote in full my brief reflection, the text of which appeared, as Michel himself has indicated, in *Phénomènes Spatiaux* No. 7, p. 24. It reads as follows:

"Secondly, although having no reason *a priori* to deny that physics, far in advance of ours, might perform this 'space-time manipulation' of which Aimé Michel speaks, we believe that, for reasons of methodology, it should be considered only as a last resort. William of Occam wisely held that hypotheses should not be multiplied unnecessarily. We will say, for our part, that the most complex, the most uncertain, should be resorted to only after having exhausted all the simplest and most verifiable ones.

"We do not know whether a science superior to ours could effectively manipulate relativistic space-time. So far as we know, such a manipulation is not provable, in the present state of our knowledge. On the other hand, numerous observers agree in affirming that flying saucers are capable of fantastic accelerations 'that would tear the skin off the bones of terrestrial pilots' and, at the time that the speed reversal during the incident witnessed by Nash and Fortenberry, acceleration was estimated at 1,000 g, that is to say a thousand times the acceleration of earth's gravity! Thus, we personally feel it is incumbent upon us, logically, to attempt to explain the apparently sudden disappearance of flying saucers by first bringing up these lightning accelerations.

"From a distance of 20 metres, the image on the retina of an object the size of that described by Maurice Masse had already shrunk and the object had already attained a certain speed. Therefore, one might suppose that, had a prodigiously abrupt and radial acceleration been applied to the object during the persistence duration of its initial image, its apparent size could have been, in a split second, so reduced as to render it practically undiscernible against the residue of that image. So that the observer would register nothing between this previous image and the imperceptible pin-point left immediately thereafter."

I leave it to the readers of *Flying Saucer Review* to decide what to think about it.

(Translated from the French by Lina Cristi and Elaine Ackerman.)

[*I cannot think that Waveney Girvan would have objected to my use of his words in the footnote to the Aimé Michel article, for he had employed them in very much the same sense as M. Michel did in his reply to René Fouéré's criticism of his* 1965 *Valensole article. I certainly did not use them against M. Fouéré, but merely to demonstrate how Waveney felt on roughly the same issue* —EDITOR.]

NEW BOOK

WERE THERE "SPACEMEN" IN THE ANCIENT EAST?

That indefatigable searcher of the past, my friend **W. Raymond Drake** has beguiled readers of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW on many occasions with his crops of stories garnered from history, stories open to interpretation as evidence of UFO activity down the centuries. He has fascinated us with his "discoveries" of incidents like the memorable occasion when two "flying shields" put an army to flight in Charlemagne's times. And having made a pretty clean sweep of relatively recent historical times, such as Norman, Saxon, Roman eras, he has, in our pages, speculated bravely on "spaceship" and "extraterrestrial" influences in history, folk-lore and "folk memories" of Ancient Britain.

In *Spacemen in the Ancient East* (Neville Spearman, 112 Whitfield St., London W.C.1.,—240 pages, with an extensive bibliography, and well-indexed—30s.) Raymond has done it again.

He has gathered in, with an enormous sweep, copious records from writings and records of civilisations of reputedly greater antiquity than ours. India, Tibet, China, Japan, Egypt and ancient Babylon have yielded many titbits for the Drake collection. However, I fear that the farther he goes back into the past, the wilder become his claims and the more unlikely the comparisons he draws.

Nevertheless some of his quotations give us cause to ponder. Here is one of many examples quoted by the author from translations of ancient texts which seem to indicate that warring hordes of antiquity were

possessed of weapons and vehicles even more potent than those at our present-day command:

"Beholding that mountain like a mass of antimony with countless weapons falling from it, Drona's son was not at all moved. The latter invoked into existence the Vajra weapon. That Prince of mountains, struck with that weapon, was quickly destroyed. Then this Rakshasa becoming a mass of blue clouds in the firmanent, decked with rainbow, began to furiously shower upon Drona's son in that battle a downpour of stones and rocks. Then that foremost of all persons acquainted with weapons, viz. Ashwatthaman, aiming the Vayarya weapon destroyed that blue cloud which had risen on the firmament." (*Drona Parva* p.497).

"This somewhat garbled account," says Mr. Drake, "suggests a bombing attack by spaceships, one of which was destroyed by a ground-to-air missile."

You may or may not agree with the author; you may think the description above is the fantasy of an ancient poet rather than a true historical record, but if so, then what put such ideas into the mind of a poet thousands of years ago? Is this part of the proof that Earth was once ruled by beings from other planets—as thinks Mr. Drake? Frankly I doubt it, although items such as this do seem to indicate the existence of ancient civilisations waging an unusual kind of war.

CHARLES BOWEN

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MYSTERY ON THE MOON

By Dan Lloyd

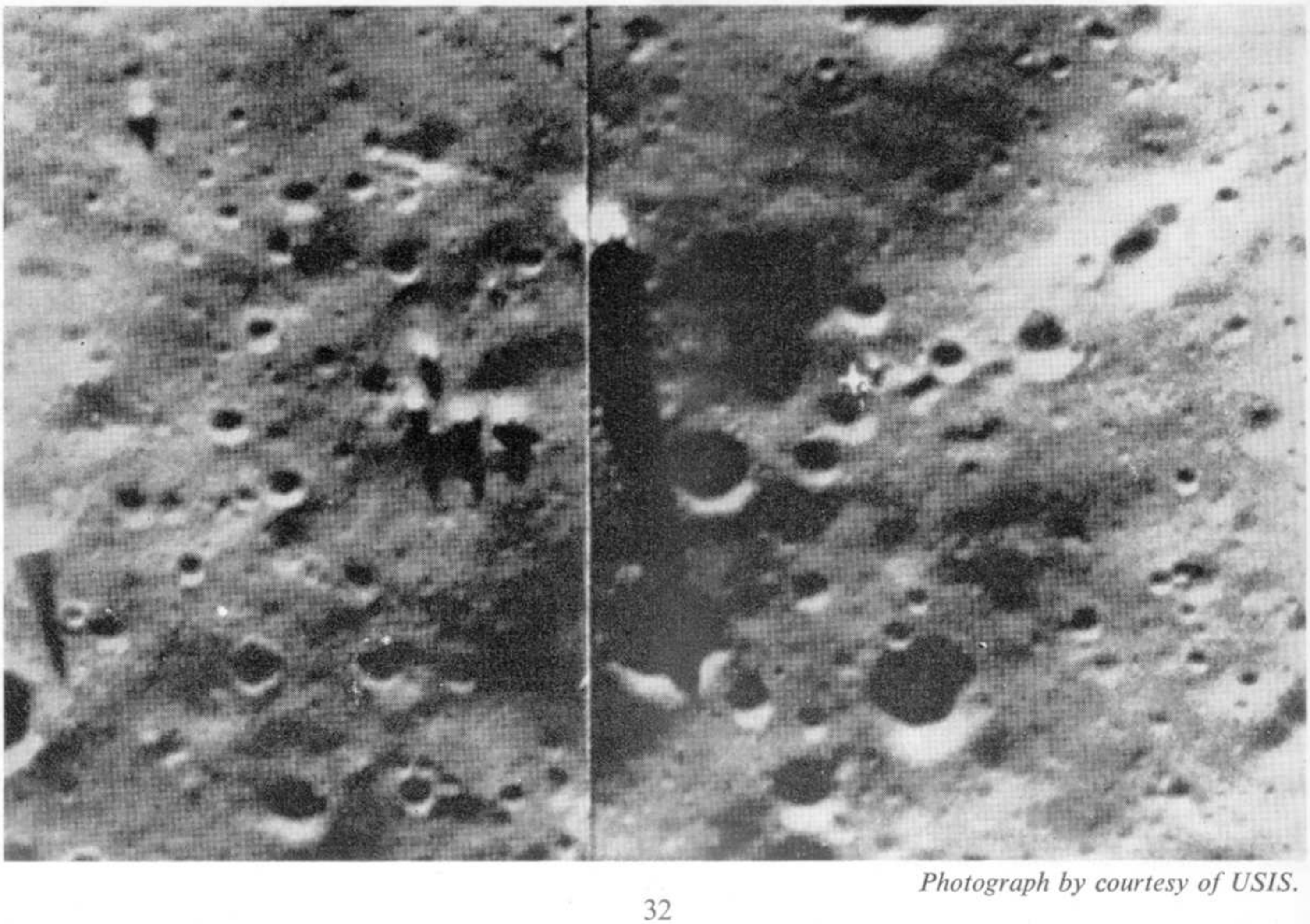
Pressure of current UFO events has kept this article out of several recent issues. Nevertheless we feel our readers would like to see this remarkable photograph.

EVER since man first gazed up at the sky and speculated about the heavenly bodies, the Moon has been an object of awe and reverence. Ancient worshippers looked up to it as a Deity; poets and lovers have always felt something of the same numinous attraction; and now our Space Age scientists have added one more mystery to the eternal riddle of the Earth's satellite.

In November 1966, the American spacecraft Lunar Orbiter II was launched from Cape Kennedy and began its survey mission of the Moon on November 18. On November 21, at an altitude of 48 kilometres (30 miles), the spacecraft's telephoto lens relayed to Earth a series of photographs taken of a small section of the Sea of Tranquility, a dry plain just North and East of the Moon's centre.

The photograph shown here covers an area of about 165 by 225 metres and was enlarged five times from the original film recorded at the Goldstone Tracking Station in California. The photograph clearly shows six spike-like shadows on the Moon's surface. Scientists have hailed these shadows as one of the most unusual

MYSTERIOUS MOON SHADOWS PHOTOGRAPHED BY ORBITER II. These six spike-like shadows on the Moon were photographed and relayed to Earth by the Lunar Orbiter II spacecraft November 21. The tapered shadows range in length up to 22.5 meters. All were in a small section of the Sea of Tranquility, a dry plain just North and East of the Moon's center. Scientists have hailed the shadows as one of the most unusual features of the Moon ever photographed, but feel that the protuberances casting the shadows are naturally-occurring features of the lunar surface. The photo covers an area about 165 by 225 meters and was enlarged five times from the original film recorded at the Goldstone Tracking Station in California. The small white crosses are reference marks used by scientists for photographic measurements. This photo, part of primary site 4, was taken by the Orbiter's telephoto lens from an altitude of 48 kilometers above the Moon. Orbiter II, launched November 6 from Cape Kennedy, began its survey mission November 18 to take up to 422 pictures of 13 possible landing sites for Apollo astronauts. (U.S.I.S. caption)



Photograph by courtesy of USIS.

features of the Moon ever photographed, but feel that the protuberances casting the shadows are naturally-occurring features of the lunar surface.

However, Mr. William Blair, a Seattle anthropologist and a member of the Boeing Company's biotechnology unit, has stated that the "spires" form a geometric pattern similar to columns built by man.

Emphasising that he is not asserting that the spires are the work of a transitory intelligence, he adds:

"If such a complex of structures were photographed on Earth, the archaeologist's first order of business would be to inspect and excavate test trenches and thus validate whether the prospective site has archaeological significance."

When he went over the photo with a compass and protractor, Blair found that the spires formed a basic X, Y and Z right-angle co-ordinate system, six isosceles triangles and two axes consisting of three points each.

He also discovered in the photo what appears to be a large rectangular-shaped depression, or "pit", directly west of the largest spire, estimated to be as tall as 70ft. The shadow cast by this depression, says Blair, seems to indicate four 90-degree angles and resembles the profile of an eroded pit structure.

Blair analysed this Moon spire photo the same way as he used aerial survey maps to look for possible pre-historic archaeological sites in the south-west United States.

He would look for geometric patterns in earth structures because, "except for primitive, nomadic peoples, man tends to construct single and multiple structures in geometric forms."

Blair's speculations were discounted by most of the space scientists of the Boeing Company, which built the Lunar Orbiter. They believe that some geophysical event is responsible for producing the spires.

Dr. Richard W. Shorthill of the Boeing Scientific Research Laboratory, an expert on Moon topography, says that there are many of these rocks on the Moon's surface. By picking some at random, you will eventually find a group that seems to conform to some kind of pattern.

But Blair is adamant. If this same "axiom" were applied to the origin of such surface features on Earth, he states, more than half of the present known Aztec and Mayan architecture would still be under tree- and bush-studded depressions—the result of natural geo-physical processes.

"The science of archaeology," he says, "would never have been developed, and most of the present know-ledge of man's physical evolution would still be a mystery."

And so, while the scientists wrangle, the Moon remains as big a puzzle as ever.

It is tempting to speculate about the possible connection between the giant stones of Stonehenge and similar prehistoric memorials and the spires on the Moon's surface. But such speculation, while affording intel-lectual diversion, is no substitute for the objective accumulation of facts. When enough facts have been gathered, they will speak for themselves. Theories may be adapted to suit the facts, but the facts should never be twisted to fit the theories. And we are going to need many, many more facts about the Moon before Man will be in a position to read her inscrutable smile.

Reference: *Los Angeles Time* of January 26, 1967, (by courtesy Mr. W. H. Church).

ON THE ROAD TO TAMPICO

By Jesus H. Garibay

Our contributor is APRO representative in Mexico

WHEN I read the article *Can they see us*? by Dr. Bernard E. Finch, in the March/April 1968 issue of FSR, I realised there was some support for his hypoth-esis in an incident that recently occurred in my country. It is possible that there could be a natural explanation, but let us first look at the interesting facts, and then decide.

I first learned of the story from the Mexico City newspaper *La Prensa*, where I read that the witnesses were Salvador Flores and Rafael Martinez, drivers of bus No. 42 on the route Mexico-Tuxpan-Tampico-Barra Alamos, which is served by the Omnibus de Mexico Company.

At 11.00 p.m. on March 23, 1968, the bus set off from Mexico City en route for Tampico, State of Tampico. After they had travelled for approximately 120 kilo-metres (the time by then was 1.30 a.m. on March 24) an "object" approached the bus at an estimated altitude of 50 metres. It was Flores, the senior driver, who first saw the object. He could not distinguish any particular shape in the powerful blue-white light which was pain-ful to the eyes. Badly dazzled he awakened the second driver, Martinez. As they watched, the "light" quickly changed its colour to red, then to violet, and then it extinguished—or disappeared.

Flores had stopped the bus abruptly and, presumably, had awakened a few of the passengers. In fact, the drivers discovered that three or four of the passengers had also seen the "thing".

"Whatever it was—and I have been in a number of tough fights—it made me feel very panicky" said driver Flores. Continuing his description of the incident he told how: "The thing passed close to our left hand side, and it was a miracle we did not fall over a little precipice to our right. At first I thought it was a car on the hill to our side. Then I thought it was a plane; then a shell exploding. However, it was not one of those things."

Flores did not hear any strange noises, but he ob-served that his wrist watch stopped for five minutes.

When they reached the next town—Tulancingo, State of Pachuca—Flores was unable to continue driving, and his partner Martinez had to take over.

"Look," said Flores to a reporter, "although I am no fighter I have not panicked when I have been involved in fights with knives or guns; this time I was really frightened. My legs were trembling, and when we finally got to Tampico (a further 250 km—J. G.) my mouth was still very dry."

This account has many classic features. The bluish-white light changing to red, then violet before extinction, or disappearence of the object; the absence of noise—which rules out lightning as an explanation; the stopping of the wristwatch possibly due to electromagnetic effects; the physiological effects on a tough man—could these have been due to shock, or to the UFO itself? It is noted that there is no mention of any effects experienced by the second driver.

Now let us suppose that the strange "light" was a craft of some sort, with occupants. Its strange behaviour seems to suggest that its occupants were looking for a place to land, and did not see the bus. When they did see it, they increased speed (the changing colours in so many reports invariably accompany a change of speed of the object) and lifted clear.

Although there is a small measure of support for Dr. Finch's theory of UFOnauts' affected vision in this hypothesis, I prefer to think otherwise. It is quite apparent that UFO technology is superior to ours, and if there were an element in our atmosphere harmful to the occupants, then I am sure they would have solved the problem. Yet the pattern of behaviour persists, which makes me think there is some cause other than the short-sightedness suggested by Dr. Finch.

World round-up *of news and comment about recent sightings*

ENGLAND

Hitchin cone and sphere

The *Hertfordshire Express* of July 11, 1968, told how Hitchin had its first UFO report on the morning of July 10:—

"The "ufo" was reported to Hitchin police by Mr. Jack Fairweather, caretaker at Bessemer School.

"Mr. Fairweather saw the object just after 9 a.m. yesterday: 'I was looking across towards the gasworks and I saw these boys looking up in the sky . . .' Mr. Fairweather and the boys saw a cone-shaped object with a sphere suspended underneath it, coming down about two miles away from them.

"Mr. Fairweather estimates that it must have been about two feet in width and he thinks that it came down somewhere in the Willian area.

"The Meteorological Office at Bassingbourne, near Royston, assured us that what Mr. Fairweather saw was not a weather balloon—'They don't look like that . . . they are wire mesh, with a cylinder underneath.'

"R.A.F. Cardington also said it was 'certainly nothing to do with the R.A.F. in this area.' "

Top-shaped UFO over Doncaster

The Doncaster *Evening Post* carried an account of a low-level UFO in its issue of July 15, 1968. We presume the incident occured on July 14. The account continues:—

"Two Intake barmaids reported seeing the object as they were on their way home at about 11 o'clock at night.

"Said Mrs. Daisy Coote, of Flint Road, Intake: 'We were just coming out of work when we saw this thing in the sky. It was hovering around like a child's humming top just above the houses in Westminster Crescent.'

"Mrs. Mary Mawford, of Devonshire Road, Intake, also saw the Thing in the sky. The UFO shaped like an elongated cigar and apparently pulsing with a brassy light seemed to slip towards the two women out of the sky before finally moving away as eerily as it came.

"Daisy said: 'It seemed to get bigger and nearer and gave us a considerable fright.' "

Several see Coventry UFO

In the Coventry *Evening Telegraph* of July 27, 1968, we read how:—

"A high-speed flying object—said by one observer to be diamond shaped, with a long tail—was reported by many people to have hovered over central Coventry last night.

"Some sky-watchers who used binoculars said that after being visible for about 15 minutes, the red-glowing unidentified flying object shot away through the clouds and vanished.

"A suggestion that the UFO might have been a transparent plastic balloon on a 'hush-hush' transatlantic flight was denied by a Ministry of Technology official at Cardington (Beds.) air station today.

" 'Don't forget that other countries are carrying out this sort of research too,' said the Ministry official.

Reports of last night's UFO sighting in Coventry follows reports of a similar object seen over the city last weekend.

Mr. Nigel Coupland, of Henry Street, Nuneaton, was on duty as a security officer at Motor Panels Ltd., Holbrook Lane, Coventry, last night when he had two sightings of the UFO with a colleague, Mr. Williams Stevenson.

"Mr. Coupland said that at about 10 p.m. they saw a red-glowing star-like object over the Earlsdon area. After about 20 minutes the object disappeared and returned at 10.45 for a short period. 'I thought that it looked about the size of a large hovercraft, lit up,'

"Mr. T. S. Cross, of Coundon Green, Keresley, who is a partner in a building firm, watched from his garden and kept a log of the UFO's strange journey.

With his wife he saw the object appear at 10.1 p.m. and said it was visible over the centre of the city for 12 minutes.

"After hovering over the city it moved off towards the south-west for about a mile and then 'shot off at a terrific speed.'

"Mr. Cross, who has been associated with the Air Training Corps, said: 'It was too large for a plane light. It was a very bright red light, and had a slight tail.' "

[*Several similar witness accounts were also given: we have insufficient space to include them here.*—ED.]

Credit: **H. Chinn** of Keresley, Coventry

Surrey UFO

The following account was given to Brinsley le Poer Trench by a colleague, and we are endebted to Mr. Trench for sending it to us:—

On Thursday June 6, 1968, my wife and I were motoring across Ranmore Common in a westerly direction towards Guildford from Dorking. At the beginning of the descent of the steep hill down to East Horsley I became aware suddenly of a stationary bright light directly ahead at a distance which I estimated to be about a mile. It was above my eye level vision at about 4-5,000 feet above the ground level of the Wey Valley. I would estimate its position as being approximately 4 miles S.E. of Guildford town.

Due to its stationary appearance I

assumed that it was an aircraft directly approaching, and drew my wife's attention to the golden yellow light emanating from it with the remark, "Look at the lights on that thing."

Almost at the moment that my wife saw it half the illumination went out as though at the flick of a switch to be followed almost immediately by a similar effect on the remaining light.

I had stopped my car and switched the engine off to listen for aircraft noise, but there was no sound, and suprisingly, in a clear sky neither myself nor my wife could see any indication of any object.

My wife remarked "It's one of Brinsley's UFOs and I checked my watch, the time being almost exactly 10.40 p.m.

I would point out that although it was late the light was good enough to enable me to read my watch quite easily.

L. W. Dover, Guildford Road, West End, Woking.

UFO over A3 traffic jam

Again, from another colleague of Brinsley Trench—this time an American who has lived in England for 15 years—comes this intriguing account:

On Sunday, June 9, 1968, at 8.00 p.m. while en route by car to London on the A3 approximately at Raynes Park, my wife and children and I were witness to an aerial phenomenon that bewildered us then as it still does.

The sky was still a light blue, the air bright and unobscured, the sun at the rear of the car low, but substantially above the horizon. Traffic had slowed to a standstill in a narrowed section of the road, and as we waited to proceed my eye was attracted through the front windscreen to a slowly moving object forward of the car, I should judge about a hundred and fifty or two hundred feet in the air, crossing at right angles more or less to the direction of my glance, left to right. I first thought it was a dead-black child's balloon, for in size and movement characteristic this seemed momentarily possible. But only for a moment. It struck me almost immediately—wryly I might add—that the shape was not spherical nor balloon-like, but rather like two domes cupped together with the axis of join parallel to the earth, although the featureless blackness revealed no line of joining. The movement was in no way meandering, but directed in an apparent side-slipping motion downward. The object was surrounded by a haze, of diameter equal to itself or greater, also faintly black, and tenuous to the point of near invisibility, and seemingly in ultra-rapid whirling motion. The feeling of solidity, heaviness, and perspective in relation to nearby objects on the ground never vanished. A bird flew in front of it, a distant jet plane was flying forward and high behind it. There seemed to be no doubt but that this was an object.

I said tentatively, and jokingly of course, to my wife: "Darling, I think I'm seeing my first flying saucer." She looked up, gasped, and asked "My God, what's that?" The children looked too, immediately, and my ten-year-old had an immediate explanation of extraterrestrial visitors as explained to her in daily TV fare for children.

The traffic jam held, and we observed the people in the front car also staring (and a walking person across the road), and they must have seen with us that the angle of descent sharpened, and the object came to within fifty feet of the ground above a tree, now about seventy-five feet to our right across the road; it hovered, then started up at a rather sharper angle of ascent. Traffic pressed from behind and we had to move on.

The period of observation was easily a full minute. The volume or density of the object never fluctuated. The whirling flickering black haze, of near ineffable thinness never ceased. The orientation of the mid-axis never varied except as one would expect for an object that was being propelled. The size impression was that approximately of an over-inflated football (soccer). It was the most absorbent black any of us had ever seen. The aerodynamic characteristic of its aerial movement remains wholly inexplicable in terms of any object heretofor familiar to me. We all saw the same thing at the same time, through glass and then through an open window. I know others saw this, and would like to hear confirmation of our observations from them —and an explanation, a rational, earth-bound explanation if possible.

Cy. Endfield, Thurloe Square, London, SW7

FRANCE

Valensole site three years after landing

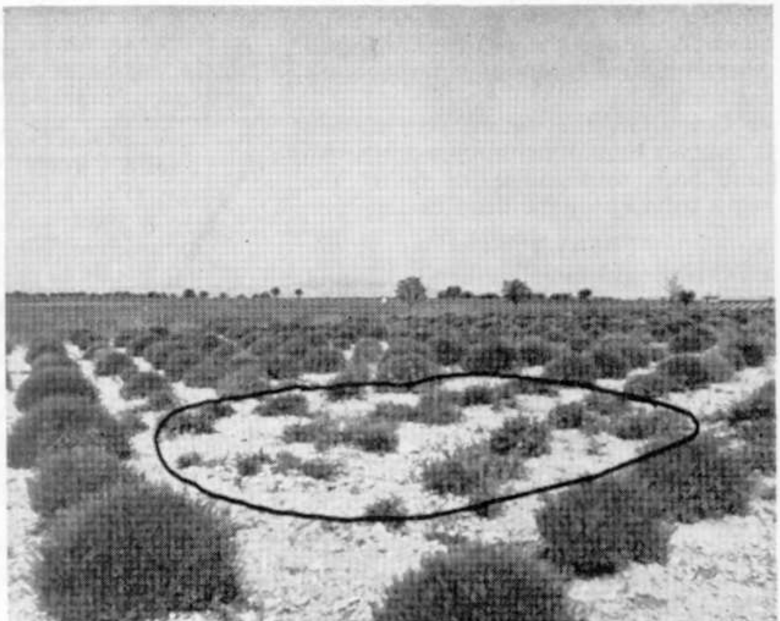
Reader **R. A. Richardson,** who has been a subscriber to FSR since Volume 1 No. 1 in 1955, paid a visit to Valensole in May 1968. The photograph he sent us shows the state of the landing site three years after M. Masse's experience (see the most recent account by Aimé Michel and Charles Bowen in FSR for January/February 1968).

Mr. Richardson confirms that the plants within the line he has drawn are *all* weeds [*the yellow flowers are clearly seen in the colour print.*-EDITOR] despite attempts to re-sow lavender.

What killed the cattle?

The review *Lumières dans la Nuit* for March/April, 1968 carries a letter from a correspondent, J. Billandaz, in which he reports two cases that occurred in France on Sat. May 27, 1967, and Sunday May 28, in the communities of Passins and Sermérieu, near Morestel.

Case 1 "A farmer and his family were returning home in their car at about 11.40 p.m., when, at a point some 1½ km from their house, they saw what looked like a ball of orange fire, stationary, giving out a luminous trail. It was above one of their fields, and so quite near their house.



The photograph taken by Mr. R. A. Richardson at l'Olivol field near Valensole. The "Observatory" mountains are in the background.

"They rushed over to investigate it, but on reaching the spot, found it had gone. The weather was clear and fine, and they are certain it could have been no hallucination or thunderbolt, etc.

"Two days later, walking in the same field, the farmer found his crop of tobacco burnt 'in rows', the rows running from N. to S. (the direction taken by the 'ball of fire' seen the night before).

Case 2 "In the village of Serměrieu, at a date subsequent to Case 1, there occured another phenomenon unquestionably linked with it. In this case at Serměrieu (be it noted that S. and P. are right close to each other, so that the Serměrieu field and the Passins field are about only 1-1½ km apart) the farmer's wife was bringing in her cows from the pasture. Entering the cowshed, she sees that one of the cows is lying dead upon the straw. Three days later, three more cows were found dead in the same way.

"The Gendarmerie investigated and called in a veterinarian, who stated that the animals' deaths were 'due to unknown causes'.

"Examining the fields where these cows had grazed, they discovered a number of areas of burnt grass. There were four such areas, each about 50 cms wide, lying along the circumference of an expanse embracing altogether four segments of 2,500 sq metres each. Test specimens were taken, but so far the laboratory in charge of the work has issued no results.

"One surprising thing is that a powerful odour (like benzine) was coming from these marks. And the farmer tells us that if you dig there and remove a clod of soil, you get the same odour, and this is at places in the field where no such odour is detectable on the surface.

"One thing that seems very certain is that no human criminal agency can have been responsible for either the burnt tobacco or the dead cattle."

MALAYSIA

UFO photographed over Kuala Lumpur

Singapore editor **Yip Mien Chun** has sent us a copy of the *Malayan Thung Pan* (Daily News) of May 29, 1968. Mr. Yip also saved Gordon Creighton the task of translating the Chinese text by sending a precis of the UFO report carried in the paper:—

"A UFO was sighted over Pataling Jaya (a middle class residential estate in Kuala Lumpur) at 6.50 a.m. on May 27 by a reporter of the paper, one Mr. Phua. Other witnesses include his son and a Malay shopkeeper living in the area.

"The UFO looked like a saucer about 3,000 feet high. Except for its bottom being black it was white all round. Flying horizontally, the UFO seemed to rotate on its axis, pulsating glittering light at both sides. It made no noise as it moved. Looking from where Mr. Phua stood the UFO appeared to wobble, 'like a ship sailing in (rough) seas.'

"Three pictures were taken in rapid succession.

"The UFO flew towards the north east direction of Pataling Jaya. In other words it flew inland which is as sparsely populated as it is mountainous and forested. The sighting lasted less than five minutes. (Apparently no one saw where the UFO came from. Pataling Jaya is situated at the south east of Klang, the chief Malaysian port in the west of the Malay peninsula.)

"At the time of the sighting the sky was quite dark, but no clouds were seen. Visibility was good. The size of the UFO was given as about 100 feet in diameter. The speed was calculated as about 15,000 m.p.h. (These calculations were made two weeks later when *Malayan Thung Pau* interviewed Prof. Tong Siew Pak, head, physics dept., University of Malaya, who questioned Mr. Phua, the photographer.)

"The *M.T.P.* has interviewed a few well-known Malaysian scientists for comments on the UFO. Among the scientists are: Prof. Tong, Dr. Li Yin Fu, head of the satellite tracking Centre in K.L., Mr. Ho Tong Guan, head of the Meteorological Dept. and Dr. Marican of the Technical College, K.L.

"After checking the negatives and talking to the photographer, all of them confirmed that the "thing" was neither a plane, a balloon nor a satellite. However, no mention of any natural phenomenon was made."

[*We hope our reader will be able to obtain copies of the photographs for us in due course.*—EDITOR.]

SOUTH AFRICA

OFS Circular Cloud UFO

From *Die Vloksblad* (Bloemfontein) of July 7, 1968, we learn how:—

"An unidentified flying object like a circular cloud in a cloudless sky, kept scores of people guessing in Bloemfontein and several parts of the Orange Free State. Many were obviously distressed and telephoned *Die Volksblad* to ascertain what it was.

"According to the S.A. Broadcasting Corporation the object was also seen at Thabazimbi, Vryburg and Stilfontein.

"The pilot of a S.A. Airways Boeing airliner en route to Cape Town, reported that he had seen the object near Jagersfontein, but when *Die Volksblad* approached an official in the control tower at the J.B.M. Hertzog Airport, and asked for an explanation, he said that all such information was strictly confidential and that he was not permitted to divulge anything.

"Early that evening several Bloemfontein residents started phoning *Die Volksblad* to report the 'thing.' One woman even asked that someone should be sent outside to investigate and to report back to her!

"According to residents who phoned from the suburbs of General De Wet, Hospital Park, Dan Pienaar and Noordhoek, the object was yellowish-white to orange in colour, with a dark patch in the centre. It seemed to be 10 to 14ft. in diameter.

"Later that night people from Bethlehem, Heilbron and Abrahamskraal (within a radius of 100 miles from Bloemfontein) phoned and gave an identical description. They said that the object approached from the south-west at a height of approximately 6,000ft. and travelled ever so slowly in a north-easterly direction, and sometimes it seemed to hover. It lingered in that area and was often visible for up to ten minutes.

"An official at the Lamont Hussey Observatory on Naval Hill in Bloemfontein, told *Die Volksblad* that people as far afield as Brandfort and even a place 110 miles away from the city, had phoned him. He said that he had not seen the object himself, and could therefore not give an explanation."

Credit to FSR Representative **Philipp Human** who also provided the translation from the Afrikaans.

[*No other newspaper accounts of these sightings have been received so we have, as yet, no way of checking the date of the incident.*—EDITOR.]

Zig-zagging Durban UFO

The *Natal Mercury* of July 17, posed the question:—

"Just what is the mysterious glowing object which . . . was seen by a large number of people on Monday (July 15) night?

"A group of eight people at the home of Mr. George Liversage were startled to see it zig-zag across the sky and take 90-degree turns.

"Mr. Liversage, who lives near the King George V Hospital, watched it through a 3ft. telescope while his son Allan followed it through a pair of binoculars. Others who watched it were his daughter Ruth and the medical superintendent of the hospital.

" 'It was the strangest thing I have ever seen,' said Allan. 'It was about the size of a beach ball and moved at great speed. There was no noise—just this glowing orange ball.'

"The object was first seen shortly after 7.30 p.m., moving from the North Coast over Westville. It was seen again after 10.30 p.m. and twice more during the night.

Watkins

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"What intrigued the group of watchers most was that at one stage it seemed to rise from the sugar cane fields at Natal Estates.

"Flying control at Louis Botha Airport reported receiving inquiries about the object too. However, a control officer said no aircraft were in the area. An official at the American space tracking station near Pretoria said yesterday that no spacecraft or satellites had been tracked in the area over Durban."

Credit: **Miss J. Dunville Lees** of Pinetown, Natal.

SPAIN
UFOs seen by hundreds

La Crónica and *La Razón* (both of Buenos Aires) for July 7 carried an Agence France Presse report from Madrid to the effect that on the evening of July 3, hundreds of people in Palma de Mallorca and other places in the Balearic Islands, as well as in Bilbao, had seen UFOs. The Palma de Mallorca paper *Ultima Hora* was quoted as having said that various eyewitnesses estimated the altitude of the UFOs at 10,000 feet. Of three UFOs over Mallorca, one was stated to have climbed from 10,000 to the UFOs over Mallorca, one was stated to have climbed from 10,000 to 20,000 feet in a few seconds, before disappearing.

The UFO over Bilbao was seen by several hundred people at 9 p.m. on July 3 before it climbed away in a spiral and was lost to sight over the Bay of Biscay.

ARGENTINA
Two reports from Córdoba

From *La Nación*, Buenos Aires, of June 16, 1968,—

"Yesterday evening, Señor Jorge Yaru, Argentine citizen, aged 35, who for the past four years has been living at Los Cigarrales, just outside the town of Mendiolaza, in the departamento (county) of Colón, situated a little over 15 km. from this provincial capital (Córdoba) told newspapermen that early in the morning last Monday, at shortly after 3.00 a.m., he was just about to go to bed when he saw through a window a strange light.

"Going out of the house, he beheld, hanging above a great tree, a bit more than 30 metres distant from him, a big luminous object of the size of a bus. Around the lower part of it were red, yellow, and green flashes of light, and when he tried to approach it the machine rose a few metres into the air at a staggering speed.

"Señor Yaru said he is a former engineer in the Argentine Navy and at present a lorry driver, and he is used to evaluating luminous phenomena seen at a distance. He said he observed the object carefully. After it had remained hanging there for over 40 minutes, it suddenly performed a leap, shooting up into the sky and moving off at high speed towards the neighbouring locality of Río Ceballos, where it disappeared.

"Shortly after he had made this statement, Señora Rosa Brizuela de García, aged 70, who lives nearby, stated that during the same night in question she was in bed when she saw, at approximately the time stated, a great light. She looked outside to see where it came from and, just as Señor Yaru did, she saw a strange machine seemingly settle on top of a nearby tree. Señora de García says that a great fear seized her, for, last year, when with a 13-year-old girl named Lola Ferreyra, they had both seen a craft just as strange as this one fly over very low and at great speed.

"Señor Yaru told nobody of what he had seen until yesterday when, in view of what happened at Villa Carlos Paz,* he decided to make known what he had seen, having in the meantime already heard of what had happened to his neighbour, Señora de García."

(Translation: G. Creighton.) Credit: Señor Guillermo J. Gainza Paz of Buenos Aires.

**See the article "Strangers about the House", page 10 of this issue.*

AZORES
UFO and creature report

We now have further details of the Azores sighting given on p. 34 of our last issue. Datelined "Angra do Heroismo, February 3", the following account was published in the *Diário dos Açores* of February 4, 1968. Speaking about his alleged experience, Serafim Vieira Sebastião told the reporter:—

" 'I know perfectly well what a meteorological research sonde-balloon is, and even at a distance I should be able to distinguish one from any other sort of object that might pass across the sky. I can therefore assure you that what I saw the night before last was in fact a manned craft, a flying saucer, or something that amounts to the same thing . . .'

"The man expresses himself firmly and almost with indignation at the volume of doubt that has been woven around this much-discussed episode. Three days ago, he was an anonymous member of the public, a simple watchman at the installations of the American 'Azores Air Base', on Cinco Picos, at the place known as 'Criação do Cabrito'. Today his name has become known beyond the confines of the island of Terceira . . .

"The most recent witness to the existence of UFOs comes from the island of Terceira, an island that has an important and busy strategic air base. The American authorities are extremely interested in the statement made by Serafim Vieira Sebastião, the watchman at the Azores Air Station.

"Serafim Vieira speaks without hesitation and uses paper and pencil to describe, with minute precision, the object that he was able to watch for an indeterminate length of time (he was profoundly affected by the emotion generated in him by the experience).

"He says: 'It was of an oval shape, with a metallic gleam, and it was topped by a glass tower with a small balustrade on which two beings were leaning. Inside the tower I could see two silhouettes which looked to me like two more beings. There is no possibility of my being mistaken or of having seen a sonde-balloon. Besides, until I used my torch, the saucer remained stationary above one of the munition dumps that are at the Air

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Base. Only when the beam of my torch alerted the men leaning on the balustrade did the things begin to happen that I have mentioned: that is to say, a cloud of dust (not gas, as people have said) suddenly surrounded me, and the saucer vanished, while I fainted.'

"And the 'saucer man', as they already call him on Terceira Island, adds: 'As you see, it doesn't exactly fit the behaviour that you expect from a sonde-balloon, which doesn't have a crew and doesn't flee either when it is observed . . .'

"Serafim Vieira . . . refuted too the arguments of those who said he had had the idea put into his head by an American TV programme on flying saucers put out from the Lajes Base on January 27 last. Said he: 'I didn't even see that programme, and I knew nothing about such objects, in which, incidentally, I did not believe . . . until I was *attacked* by this one!'

"Meanwhile, aircraft of the Portuguese and American Air Forces continue to fly around over the Cinco Pontes area and naval units are maintaining an intensive patrol of adjacent waters. The famous flying saucer (whether real or supposed) has given birth to a problem which is being faced realistically. . . ."

João Afonso
Translation: G. Creighton.

IN OUR NEXT . . .

Humanoids Encountered at La Baleia
By *Professor Hulvio B. Aleixo.* The author tells of a very thorough investigation he and his colleagues made of this 1967 Brazilian landing case—following a request to do so by the Bello Horizonte police.

Is the "EM Effect" a Myth?
By *John A. Keel*

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By *Louis Schonherr.* Another interesting contribution to the author's long-drawn-out series which commenced in 1963.

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